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Rosa Lowinger and Uta Pottgiesser to address Docomomo US National Symposium attendees in Miami

Rosa Lowinger and Uta Pottgiesser, internationally recognized experts in the realm of Modern preservation, will present the opening and closing keynote addresses at the 2024 Docomomo US National Symposium. Entitled *Streams of Modernity: Postwar to Postmodern*, the Symposium will take place in Miami and Coral Gables, Florida, from May 29 through June 1, and is a collaboration of Docomomo US, the Docomomo US/Florida chapter and the University of Miami School of Architecture.

Cuban-born American art conservator and founder of RLA Conservation of Art + Architecture, LLC, Rosa Lowinger will kick off the Symposium the evening of May 29th with her opening address, “Modern Materials, Tropical Identities: Preservation as a Tool for Personal and Communal Repair.” Lowinger will discuss the links between historic preservation and healing of intergenerational trauma using examples from her family’s story of double exile from Eastern Europe to Cuba and then the United States. Based on her 2023 memoir [*Dwell Time: A Memoir of Art, Exile, and Repair*](#), this presentation will highlight the specific challenges of conserving twentieth century materials in tropical and marine climates, and the metaphors for and dealing with coastal conservation in the period of climate change. The Opening Keynote will be held in the midcentury Cosford Cinema on the University of Miami campus and will be followed by a reception at the [Lowe Art Museum](#).

Flying in from Delft, Netherlands, the location of Docomomo’s original founding, current Docomomo International Chair Uta Pottgiesser will present the closing keynote, “Challenges of Modernity and their Impact on Modern Movement” on May 31st. For more than 30 years, Docomomo International has been working to foster interest in the ideas and heritage of the Modern Movement and to serve as a platform to exchange knowledge relating to history, conservation technology, education & training. Docomomo International has grown from 13 founding members to 79 National Working Parties today, acting locally,

regionally, and internationally through its six Specialist Committees (ISCs) and the biannual conferences (IDCs), held since 1990. As it has grown into a worldwide organization, Docomomo International increasingly deals with global challenges and transformations such as climate change, conflicts, and digitalization. When moving the headquarters to TU Delft in 2022, these were crucial elements of the working program proposed by the International Secretariat for 2022-2025. Pottgiesser's talk will showcase current projects, publications, and cooperation related to documentation and conservation efforts internationally, with examples from different continents, typologies and scales.

Registration for the National Symposium will open in early March. More information is available at www.docomomo-us.org/nationalsymposium.

About the Speakers



Rosa Lowinger is a Cuban-born American art conservator and founder of [RLA Conservation of Art + Architecture, LLC](#), a sculpture and architectural materials conservation practice based in Miami and Los Angeles. She is also a published author, most well-known for *Tropicana Nights: The Life and Times of the Legendary Cuban Nightclub* (Harcourt, 2005), a book on Havana's pre-Castro nightclub era; *Promising Paradise: Cuban Allure American Seduction* (FIU press: 2016); and *Dwell Time: A Memoir of Art, Exile, and Repair* (Row House, 2023). A Fellow of the American Institute for Conservation, the Association for Preservation Technology, and the American Academy in Rome, Rosa holds an M.A. in Art History and Conservation from NYU's Institute of Fine Arts. She serves on the boards of the Amigos of the Cuban Heritage Collection at University of Miami, Florida Association of Museums, the Partnership for Sacred Places, and the Florida Association of Public Art Professionals. A hands-on working conservator, Rosa's writing focuses on the confluence between material culture, memory, and repair. She has done extensive research on the conservation of twentieth century concrete and mosaics as well as Painted Outdoor Sculpture and the history of vandalism. She serves as a regular consultant to the Getty Conservation Institute and co-curated the exhibits *Promising Paradise: Cuban Allure American Seduction* (Wolfsonian Museum, 2016) and *Concrete Paradise: Miami Marine Stadium* (Coral Gables Museum, 2013). Rosa's 1999 cover story on Havana for Preservation Magazine spawned a career in cultural travel that has taken her to Cuba over 100 times since 1992. She divides her time between Los Angeles and Miami.



Uta Pottgiesser is Professor of Building Construction and Materials at [TH OWL](#) and Professor of Heritage & Technology at [TU Delft](#) (Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment) in the Netherlands. Her academic focus is on sustainable building construction and the preservation of Modern heritage, and she has more than twenty-seven years of experience as a practicing architect and research scientist concerned with the protection, reuse and improvement of the built heritage and environment. She is a member of the Institute of Design Strategies (IDS) at TH OWL and of the section Heritage & Architecture at TU Delft. She is the co-founder of the [European Facade Network](#) (efn) and of the related international Master of Integrated Design (MID) program. Since 2016 she has been vice-chair of the Docomomo Germany working party, and was chair of the Docomomo International Specialist Committee of Technology (ISC/T) from 2016-2021. Next to her scientific activities, she has served as vice-president (2006-2011, 2023-) and dean of the Detmold School of Design (2012-2016) at TH OWL. In 2022, she took over as Chair of the NGO [Docomomo International](#) with 79 national working parties worldwide, hosted at TU Delft. She is also editor-in-chief of the open-access [Docomomo Journal](#). She has researched, taught, and lectured internationally, is an expert and reviewer for national and international research organizations and for several international journals, and [she has \(co-\) authored several peer-reviewed publications](#) Prof. Pottgiesser graduated with a Diploma in Architecture from TU Berlin (1991) and obtained her PhD (Dr.-Ing.) from TU Dresden (2002) on the topic of “Multi-layered Glass Constructions. Energy and Construction,” both in Germany. She holds a professional degree as Architect (1993) and is a registered member of the Berlin Chamber of Architects.

About the National Symposium

The Docomomo US National Symposium is the primary event in the United States for professionals to discuss and share efforts to preserve modern architecture and meet leading practitioners and industry professionals. The Symposium developed as a result of the Docomomo US Board of Directors’ annual “Face to Face” meeting. The first expanded event took place in Los Angeles in 2010 with an open forum for local individuals actively engaged in the discussion of modern architecture. Docomomo US hosted its first National Symposium in Sarasota, Florida in April 2013. Held annually, this multi-day conference seeks to engage local participants in cities across the United States, offering participants the ability to interact with and explore a wide variety of significant modern architecture and sites.