

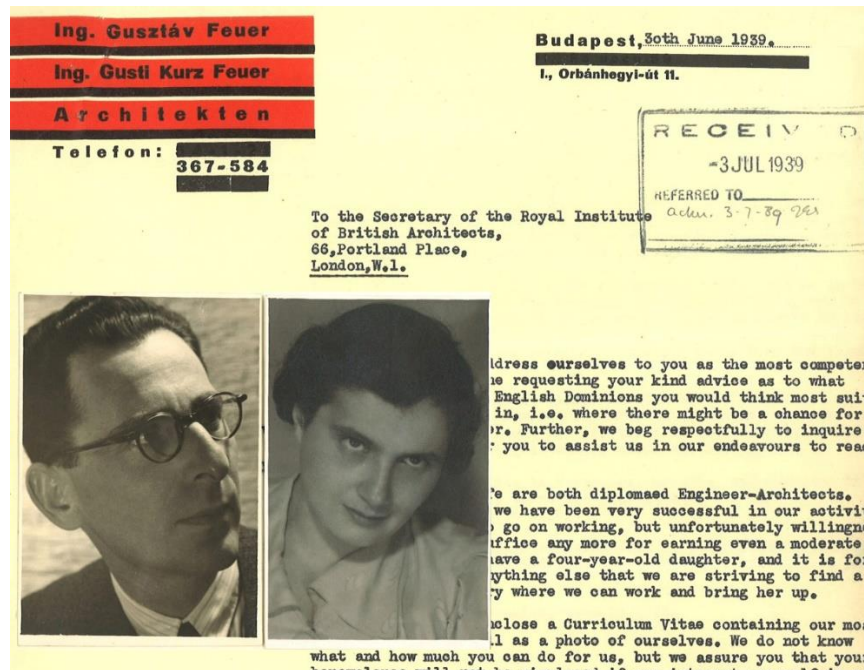
Displaced Lives: architects seeking refuge on the brink of World War II

Royal Institute of British Architects, London, 21-22 June 2024

Conveners:

Valeria Carullo, RIBA Photographs Curator

Dr Irena Murray, Hon. FRIBA



Letter to the RIBA with photographs from Gustav and Gusti Feuer, dated 1939 (Image: RIBA Collections)

In January 1939, the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) set up a special committee to deal with the increasing number of requests for assistance from architects situated in Nazi-occupied central Europe.

Between 1938 and 1941, more than 200 individuals (mostly architects) became known to the RIBA and its Refugee Committee, either directly or via other refugee organisations. Some of these architects had already achieved recognition, while others had barely managed to embark on their careers. Some succeeded in emigrating and rebuilding their lives abroad. Of those who stayed behind, many did not survive the war. The **RIBA Refugee Committee Papers**, which include the related correspondence and record the activities of the committee, are held in the RIBA Archives and have inspired ongoing research on the topic, of which this conference is the first major output.

The conference seeks to give back a voice to those often-forgotten architects and to celebrate their lives and their work. It also aims to provide a better understanding of the phenomenon of migration in the late 1930s of one particular profession from continental Europe to the United Kingdom and beyond.

Conference programme

Please note: all times BST

FRIDAY 21 JUNE 2024

- 09.00-09.30 Registration
- 09.30-09.50 Welcome
Dr Oliver Urquhart-Irvine, RIBA Executive Director, Architecture Programmes and Collections
Valeria Carullo, RIBA Photographs Curator
- 09.50-10.30 Keynote: **Dr Anthony Grenville**, Chair of the Research Centre for German & Austrian Exile Studies, University of London
The arrival of the refugees from Nazism in Britain after 1933 and their initial reception
- 10.30-11.00 **Valeria Carullo**, RIBA Photographs Curator
The RIBA Refugee Committee
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee/tea break
- 11.30-12.00 **Ágnes Anna Sebestyén**, Hungarian Museum of Architecture and Monument Protection Documentation Center, Budapest
Creative Escape Routes: The work of Gusztáv Feuer and Auguszta Kurz in Prague and Budapest in the interwar period
- 12.00-12.30 **Dr Stefano Poli**, Politecnico di Milano
Eugenio Giacomo Faludi (Budapest 1896- Toronto 1981): architect and planner between Italy, London and Canada
- 12.30-13.00 Q&A and discussion
Chair: **Monica Bohm-Duchen**, lecturer, curator and author, London
- 13.00-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-14.40 Keynote: **Dr Irena Murray**, HonFRIBA, architectural historian and curator, Prague
"Buoyant Against Adversity": Czech and Slovak architects look to Britain
- 14.40-15.10 **Prof Vladimír Šlapeta**, HonFRIBA, architect and architectural historian, Brno and Prague
Jacques Groag, architect in Olomouc, Vienna, Prague, and London
- 15.10-15.40 **Dr Lenka Kerdová**, artist, art historian and curator, Vienna
Erwin (Ervin) Katona and interwar "German" architecture in Prague

- 15.40-16.00 Coffee/tea break
- 16.00-16.30 **Dr Zuzana Güllendi-Cimprichova**, University of Bamberg
Czech Jewish Architect Karl Kohn and his work between Czechoslovakia and Ecuador
- 16.30-17.00 **Prof Henrieta Moravčíková**, Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava
Lost on the way to the promised land
- 17.00-17.30 **Dr Peter Papp**, product designer, London
Ideas in transit
- 17.30-18.00 Q&A and discussion
Chair: **Dr Otto Saumarez-Smith**, University of Warwick

SATURDAY 22 JUNE

- 09.00-09.30 Registration
- 09.30-10.00 **Daniele Abreu e Lima**, Victoria University of Wellington
Jewish refugees architects in New Zealand
- 10.00-10.400 Keynote: **Rebecca Hawcroft**, architectural researcher and writer, Sydney
Challenges and Opportunities: The émigré architect experience in Australia
- 10.40-11.10 **Catherine Townsend**, University of Melbourne
Diaspora Destination: Modern Jewish Melbourne 1937-1979
- 11.10-11.30 Coffee/tea break
- 11.30-12.00 **Dr Caroline Wohlgemuth**, author, Vienna
Visionary architecture & design from Vienna – Vienna's forgotten architects
- 12.00-12.30 **Prof Gary Boyd**, Queen's University Belfast
Donkeys, Pit-ponies and Socialism: The architectures of Egon Riss
- 12.30-13.00 Q&A and discussion
Chair: **Valeria Carullo**, RIBA Photographs Curator
- 13.00-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-14.30 Presentation by **Ivanna Bakhaieva**, RIBA John and David Hubert Bursary grant recipient

- 14.30-15.10 **Keynote: Prof Volker M. Welter**, University of California at Santa Barbara
Four German-speaking Émigré Architects in California
- 15.10-15.40 **Janet Parks**, independent historian, New York
Felix Augenfeld: Vienna, London, New York
- 15.40-16.00 Coffee/tea break
- 16.00-16.30 **Dr Agnes Grunwald-Spier MBE**, author and lecturer on the Holocaust, Holocaust survivor, London
The persecuted Jewish Architects who fled the Nazis and created the architecture of Israel
- 16.30-17.00 **Zuzanna Krzyzanowska**, Oxford Brookes University
Forging Futures amidst Adversity: The legacy of the Polish School of Architecture in Liverpool during WWII
- 17.00-17.30 Q&A, discussion and conclusions
Chair: **Dr Irena Murray**, HonFRIBA, architectural historian and curator, Prague