

## Annual AIA UK Student Design Charrette

One of the highlights of the AIA/UK annual events calendar is the Student Design Charrette, a one day design frenzy by competing 'tables' of architecture students. This year's event seems to have been the most successful yet, with over 70 participants representing twelve universities in the UK and Scotland.

The theme for the Charrette this year was to design a 'Thames-side Eco-Spa'. Benedict O'Looney, leader of the now notorious architectural cycle tours, primed the students with a stimulating illustrated talk about the rich history of spas in the UK, as well as some images of different drawing strategies for rendering proposals.

The sites were chosen and introduced by Kevin Flanagan, Chapter President this year. The site IN the Thames next to Vauxhall Bridge harkened back two thousand years with the proposed reinstatement of an island built there by the Romans for leisure purposes.

Tables of students were well mentored by architects Mike Oades, John Bushell, Jaimie Shorten, Manfred Yuen, Josephine Nelder, Claire Weldin, Kevin Flanagan, Benedict O'Looney. They clearly gave the teams crucial momentum and guidance in a packed room of drawing mania. A new feature this year was having two 'expert roving mentors with special knowledge in the area of sustainable design who spent some time with each of the tables: Hardin Tibbs and Piers Heath.

Paul Finch OBE, Editor of the Architectural Review, once again Chaired the Charrette Jury. Co-Jurors with Paul were Iain Tuckett, founding director of Coin Street Community Builders, and Claire McDonald, Director at Deborah Saunt David Hill Architects. Under Paul's guidance the Jury complemented the student presentations with lively and generous critique that had broad perspective, insight, enthusiasm and humour. The Jury particularly praised the students extraordinary output of a vast range of creative ideas.

The winning team was a group assembled on the day, from the University of Edinburgh and Goldsmiths. They gave an exceptionally clear and enthusiastic presentation, including a lovely lyrical model, of their scheme that used tidal movement to change the appearance of their scheme over time.

Second Place went to a group from the Architectural Association's 2<sup>nd</sup> Year, particularly praised by Paul Finch for embracing urban transport issues into their design thinking.

Thanks to the Architectural Association for letting the AIA/UK use its Main Lecture Hall for the second year running. And most importantly, thanks to Steve Jolly, Norman Krangel and the entire CallPrint team. They have sponsored the Chapter, and specifically sponsored the Charrette essentially since we began. CallPrint's contribution of 'reprographics-on-demand' at the event gives a unique boost to the labors of the frantic Charretters! Thanks to all – the students loved it.

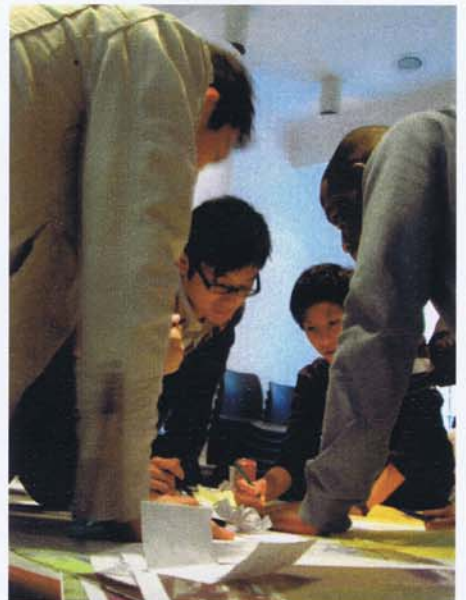
Anderson Inge AIA ARBS, Charrette Coordinator

## The Annual General Meeting

of the AIA/UK is scheduled for Thursday 10th January from 6:30PM. Herman Miller, long time supporter of the chapter, will be hosting the meeting at their showroom at 149 Tottenham Court Road, London W1T 7JA. Refreshments will be served courtesy of Herman Miller.

The AGM is an ideal opportunity to meet other members of the chapter and learn more about the wide range of events that the AIA/UK sponsored over the past year and what is planned for 2008.

On the same evening elections will take place for the 2008 Board of Directors and Officers of the Chapter. Nominations may be forwarded to the attention of the election committee at [info@aiauk.org](mailto:info@aiauk.org) or on the night of the AGM.



Down to work at the annual AIA/UK Student Design Charrette - more photos on page 2



# AIA's First International Design Build Conference London

## 27th to 29th September 2007

Two AIA committees and one component joined up with the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) to sponsor the first-ever international design-build conference. AIA's International Committee, chaired by Harold Adams, FAIA; AIA's Design-Build Knowledge Community, chaired by Bill Quatman, FAIA; and AIA/UK Chapter, chaired by Kevin Flanagan, AIA teamed up to host this conference after a full year of planning and endorsement from the Institute. AIA's International Director, Michael Lischer, AIA assisted as conference co-chair and the group assembled a "who's who" of international architects and industry leaders to discuss and debate the growth of design-build in the international marketplace.

The conference was titled "Design Excellence, Design-Build: An International Conference" and was held at the headquarters of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) at 66 Portland Place in the historic Regent's Park area of London. The program included thirteen different seminars over two days, plus evening receptions, followed by two tours of London's newest design-build projects. More than one hundred attendees came from all over the globe, from Nigeria, Italy, U.S., England, France, Greece, Belgium, Canada, Ireland, Germany, Trinidad and Tobago, the Czech Republic, U.A.E., Portugal, The Netherlands, and even one from the nation of Mauritius, an island off the coast of Africa in the southwest Indian Ocean. All came for the same reason: to learn more about design-build and the architect's rapidly changing role in the global construction market.

Corporate sponsorship for the conference was provided by DBIA, BST Global, Lutron, McGraw-Hill, Grace and Woods Bagot. This conference covered topics ranging from education of students in the U.S. and U.K. on the design-build method of delivery; legal risks and financial hurdles on each side of the Atlantic; public-private partnerships; international design-build competitions; and several panel discussions on the pros and cons of design-build from a wide variety of perspectives. The concept of architect-led design-build seemed to resonate with speakers at most sessions, with some embracing the concept while others steered clear for reasons of risk, culture or legalities.

The U.K. Market. In the U.K. as in the U.S. there has been increased use of design-build (called either EPC, Engineer Procure Construct, or "design and build", or Private Finance Initiative "PFI"). A 2005 RIBA report found that alternative project delivery was more than 60% of the U.K. market. The University of Reading reported that design-build emerged within the U.K. building industry during the 1970's and early 1980's to provide a greater degree of certainty for clients who wanted an integrated form of project delivery to overcome cost and time overruns and reduce costly claims and possible litigation - the same concerns that have driven design-build in the U.S. By 1998, less than 40% of construction in the U.K. was procured by the "traditional" method, a sharp decline from the 70% in the mid-eighties. RIBA found that, "The use of these alternative methods, in particular design and build, has now consolidated and is almost universal in some sections." RIBA asks the question, "What Can I Do?" Their answer, "Get Involved!" RIBA Position Statement, Architects and the Changing Construction Industry. So it was fitting that this conference was held in London, at the RIBA headquarters, where attendees learned how to "get involved" in design-build delivery.



Images (above and left) from the annual AIA/UK Student Design Charrette, this year a one day frenzy to design, document and present a 'Thames-side Eco-Spa'



# Schedule of Events

## January 2008

### Introductory Overview Understanding LEED®

for Sustainability - in London, for AIA/UK

Please contact AIA/UK chapter executive by email [chapterexecutive@aiauk.org](mailto:chapterexecutive@aiauk.org) in early January 08' - to reconfirm date, time, and venue. Approximately 1.5 - 2hours in the evening. (CES credits available)

Tentative date Tuesday, January 22nd, 2008- at 6:30pm

The Introductory Overview talk will help you better understand the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED® program - today's hottest design support and ratings tool supporting environmental design and construction of successful green buildings. This overview will explore the pre-eminent green building guide and rating tool, and cover sustainable design principles and green building practices. Using LEED® is proven effective to help deliver excellence in green building projects through unbiased ratings of project design options and to help project teams compare green construction packages. Green buildings succeed by reducing operating costs, enhancing occupant health and comfort, enhancing durability and decreasing maintenance, all at low, sometimes zero, added construction costs. Holistic, collaborative sustainable design projects are producing not only environmentally superior projects, but also increasing a building's economic viability.

### Architectural Association School of Architecture Exhibition - AA

#### L'amour Cordial- Remembered

Exhibition: *The World of Madelon Vriesendorp: Paintings/Postcards/Objects/Games* 14/01/2008 -08/02/2008 Mon-Fri 10.00-7.00, Sat 10.00-3.00. The AA's Front Members' Room will house Vriesendorp's astounding 'Archive' of miniature objects, models and figurines, which numbers in the thousands. An Evening Lecture, Madelon Vriesendorp and Friends will take place on Thursday 17 January at 6.00 in the AA Lecture Hall. The Architectural Association School of Architecture's AA Gallery London installation will include paintings and drawings dating from 1966 to today; two collections of postcards collected by Vriesendorp and Koolhaas in New York during the 1970s, which form an accidental archaeology of the USA; and a rarely seen 1979 animation, *Flagrant Délit*, co-authored with Teri Wehn-Damisch, which tells the torrid tale of Manhattan's most infamous skyscrapers as an anthropomorphic surrealist melodrama. Madelon Vriesendorp was one of the founding members OMA (the Office for Metropolitan Architecture, together with Rem Koolhaas and Elia and Zoe Zenghelis) and a teacher at the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London, (AA) for over a decade. The curators, AACP director Shumon Basar and architect/theorist Stephan Tru"by, gained unique access to Vriesendorp's extraordinary studio/archive in North London. The accompanying AA publication is designed by Kasia Korczak.

*Flagrant Délit* (right) shows the Chrysler and Empire State buildings caught red-handed, in an illicit post-coital, post-modern, embrace by the Rockefeller Center; with the whole City entranced. It constitutes one of the most beguiling attempts to depict the unconscious double-life of modern architecture, by day a slave to commerce, at night worthwhile distractions.

## Upcoming AIA/UK Meetings

The final AIA/UK Board meeting of 2007 will take place on the 19th Dec at HOK offices, at 6:30pm

The Annual General Meeting AGM will take place at Herman Miller Showroom on Thursday 10th Jan, at 6:30pm (see pg 1)

Inaugural AIA/UK Board 2008 meeting will take place tentatively on Wed 16th Jan, at 6:30pm. - Venue TBC

Please email the Chapter Executive if you would like more details on the above.



Flagrant Délit, (1975),

Image Courtesy of Madelon Vriesendorp; from the book *Delirious New York* (1979) by Rem Koolhaas / The Monacelli Press, 1994



## Dr. Benjamin Franklin & The Honourable Al Gore

voted  
Honorary AIA/UK  
Patrons.

*Former Vice- President, Academy Award winner, and recent Nobel Prize winner The Honourable Al Gore, along with Benjamin Franklin, were recently voted by the Board Honorary AIA/UK Patrons; for their work broadening our understanding of the environment, and earth sciences.*



## Benjamin Franklin

named as the AIA/UK's Chapter's Honorary "Patron" to mark the 150th anniversary.

The AIA/UK was an early sponsor and collaborator in establishing the Benjamin Franklin House Museum, the AIA/UK's headquarters, and this year Dr Franklin was unanimously voted the AIA/UK's honorary "patron".

The house was the First de facto US Embassy. First site outside the US to gain "Save America's Treasures" designation. For nearly sixteen years between 1757 and 1775, Dr Benjamin Franklin - scientist, diplomat, philosopher, inventor, Founding Father of the United States and more - lived behind its doors. The house is a living museum of the life and times of Dr. Franklin, and sponsors exhibitions and symposia. With early assistance from the AIA/UK his House was opened to the public as a museum for the first time on 17 January 2006 on Benjamin Franklin's 300th birthday.

Many historians hail Benjamin Franklin as the "First American", and an early environmentalist, charting the Gulf Stream by means of water temperature, study of atmospheric discharge, positing local climate change based on global phenomena (volcanic ash), designing an efficient fireplace at his home at 36 Craven Street. Benjamin Franklin was an early member of the RSA.

Dr. Franklin as an early environmental scientist, if living today in the light of new science might have understood that practical "necessity" can lead to innovation; to discoveries of those "self-evident" truths that take a fuller measure of the world. Practical minded and very sociable, he was instrumental in establishing the spirit of American volunteerism; establishing working groups of friends who volunteered their time for the betterment of their community. This year sees the AIA/UK creating stronger ties between ourselves, the Benjamin Franklin House Museum and the Royal Society of Art (RSA); Home of the Benjamin Franklin Medal; which this year is to be awarded to a deserving and recognised American.

## CallPrint Recognised by AIA UK

*The award is given in recognition of the 13 years of active involvement of CallPrint in the AIA/UK Student Design Charrette.*

### AIA/UK Award of Recognition

*On the occasion of the 150th year of the founding of the AIA and on behalf of the AIA/UK Board we confer the Award of Recognition.*

*This award is in recognition of the CallPrint Teams past contributions of time and continued support and the special contribution made in promoting excellence in design with regard to the Annual AIA/UK Student Design Charrette.*



*Photo: from the left: Keith Millay, President-Elect, Norman Krangel CallPrint, Kevin Flanagan, President, and Steve Jolly CallPrint*



## Journey to China

There were lots of reasons for wanting to visit China this summer. I wanted to make an exciting journey, to immerse myself in unfamiliar cultures and to experience at first hand their way of life and their buildings. I was also intrigued by all the talk of 'eco-cities' but unable to find out exactly what they are going to look like or how they are going to work. When I started talking to people about my proposed trip I was fascinated by their descriptions of the vernacular architecture of China and the strict rules for the layout and orientation of their dwellings. I wondered whether I would be able to trace links between the vernacular architecture, which by necessity evolved in a 'sustainable' way, and the new architecture which is labelled 'eco-friendly'. And so my destination became Shanghai, the 'New York' of the 21st century, a city experiencing a massive wave of expansion and re-development, somewhere I would be able to see old and new side by side and collect material for a dissertation.

My journey took me on the Trans-Siberian railway from St Petersburg's vast canals, through Moscow's exquisite metro stations, around the icy waters of Lake Baikal, via the chaotic city of Ulaanbaatar and the smog of Beijing to Shanghai. The trip was an architectural feast, from opulent Baroque palaces to remote Ger tents, ancient siheyuan courtyards to the Oriental Pearl TV Tower.

Shanghai was full of surprises. Planning of Dongtan – the eco-city – is still at the urban-planning stage: the dwelling-level design features that I thought I might look at are not yet defined. I did find existing examples of the evolution of the vernacular architecture – from the oldest siheyuan courtyard houses to the development of the shikumen houses, a fusion of eastern and western architecture created shortly after the arrival of French, British and American merchants in the late 19th century. I experienced the satellite towns that are being developed to ease the pressure on Shanghai. These were intended to be nine largely self-sustaining communities but, until the planned decentralisation of commerce and industry occurs, the hoped-for benefits such as reduced commuting and pollution have yet to be realised. The design rationale for Dongtan draws on many sources including ARUP's research in eco footprinting of existing cities. It strives for a combination of residential and commercial activity – implemented at the same time – with a population density sufficient to sustain a mature public transport system without being overcrowded. Overall, a step-change reduction in the amount of energy needed for transport is believed to be key to delivering the eco-benefits of the city.

So I went to find out how the Chinese are learning from their heritage to inform the new eco-architecture. Although I set out with the intention of focussing on the evolution of the residential dwelling my eyes have instead been opened to the rich history of development of Shanghai, the magnitude of the task of re-modelling a city and some of the fundamental principles informing the design of Dongtan – the first carbon-zero eco-city. My visit was made possible by scholarships and grants from Robert Adam Architects, AIA/UK and RIBA East. My learning in China was made possible by placements with Sinosun and ARUP and a homestay with The Mafenglin Family. I am most grateful to all the organisations, their staff and to the many interesting people I met on my travels for an unforgettable experience.

Emily Penn

On behalf of the  
AIA/UK Board  
we wish you the Best  
of the Season, and a  
Bountiful New Year.



Washing lines strung between houses - Hang Zhou



Summer Palace - Beijing



French Concession - Shanghai



## American Institute of Architects AIA / UK

was proud to present the following awards this past September and October, they read:

Awarded to Zaha Hadid Architects on the occasion of the 150th year of the founding of the AIA and on behalf of the AIA/UK Board we confer the President's Award. This award is in recognition of your work, the work of your office and the resulting contribution in promoting excellence in design; as well as your past contributions of time to the AIA/UK Chapter and the AIA internationally.

Awarded to Michael Lisher, AIA on the occasion of the 150th year of the founding of the AIA and on behalf of the AIA/UK Board we confer the Award of High Commendation. In recognition for his work as the Inaugural International Director, for his leadership and his past contribution and continued service to the AIA/UK Board and Chapter, and broad contribution to the architectural profession internationally.

Kevin Flanagan, President AIA/UK 2007



photo by Barfolom

Zaha Hadid is presented the AIA/UK's President's Award by Kevin Flanagan in London this past September.

## Ecohouse Student Design Competition, Awards

The prizegiving of the 2007 Ecohouse Student competition took place at RIBA, Gallery 2, on Thursday 2nd August, and was attended by more than 60 winners and guests. A selection of competition entries, including winners and highly commended entries were on exhibition in the Gallery, making the event a great opportunity to view the work of promising new talent in sustainable architecture.

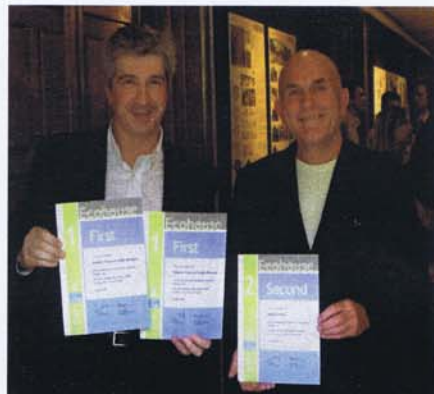
Certificates were awarded to prizewinners and highly commended entrants. The American winners and runner up of the competition (all from the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, California ) were represented by fellow American Kevin Flanagan, President of the American Institute of Architects in UK, who accepted the certificates on their behalf . Salvador Ceja and Sergio Marquez were winners for their design, Vascular House, with second prize awarded to Stephen Nieto for his idea of a Living Tower Prototype.

Amongst other attendees was a team of five Brazilian students and two of their tutors from Fumec University, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, who were awarded Highly Commended certificates for their creation, Oca House.

The evening also featured the launch of Ecohouse 3, the latest edition of the eco-design guide by Professor Sue Roaf the competition organizer, who gave a short presentation. This third edition of this book, published by Architectural Press continues to be an inspiration to thousands of architects, designers and eco-builders all over the world and signed copies were available during the evening.

Sue is currently working with The Concrete Centre on the Ecohouse competition 2008 and on a short course, Low carbon Housing in Concrete for practising architects.

AIA UK President  
Kevin Flanagan  
accepts competition  
prizes on behalf of  
winners Salvador  
Ceja, Sergio Marquez  
and Stephen Nieto, all  
students at California  
State Polytechnic  
University



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