



## CIB NEWS ARTICLE

International Council for Research and Innovation  
in Building and Construction

Providing a global network for international exchange and cooperation in research and innovation in building and construction, in support of an improved building process and of improved performance of the built environment.

February 2008

### Forthcoming Meeting

W104 - Open Building Implementation

## EDUCATION FOR AN OPEN ARCHITECTURE

# Education for an Open Architecture

An International Conference Hosted by:  
Ball State University College of Architecture and Planning +  
CIB W104 Open Building Implementation

Muncie, IN, United States, 19-22 October 2008

### Conference

This conference will draw educators and practitioners from around the world to discuss challenges to architectural education resulting from a new reality that needs to be taken seriously: it is no longer suitable to design buildings for fixed functions. A substantial part of our building stock needs to accommodate changing functions and at the same time be long-lasting. While there are exceptions, the need to balance change and stability exists in the office, retail, medical and housing markets, as well as laboratories, educational buildings and manufacturing facilities. Taken together, this constitutes well over 80% of the built field.

This presents a problem for everyone who has grown used to specifying functions and their adjacencies in detail as the starting point for building investment and design. Instead, we need to design buildings in which uses will change in large and small ways over the life of the building. We could take the position that demolishing buildings designed "functionally" as soon as the function changes makes sense in many cases, but that is not sustainable nor is it good for establishing any enduring sense of place. This is not a new problem, because architects and their consultants and clients could not survive in the real world if they didn't learn to cope with these issues. But it is largely ignored in our theories and our educational methods.

There are parallels between this new challenge in architecture and the problems in designing infrastructure. Road networks on different scales, railway lines and canals come to mind, as do water and sewer systems and communication networks. They all serve multiple users and frame physical conditions for inhabitation. In large capital assets such as these, whose design and use stretch over large territories and over long periods of time, control is often hierarchically distributed and guided by both convention and explicit regulatory processes. Governmental entities as well as private parties are involved in complex and changing patterns of initiative, financing and management. Increasingly, large buildings serving multiple and changing users show similar characteristics by offering space for customized user settlement. We know that shopping centers and office buildings, for instance, have behaved this way for some time. Now we see residential buildings and hospitals shifting toward this mode. The implications for design, for regulation and for innovation in the building industry are important.

This is the theme of the conference. We expect that during the conference a wide range of ideas will be discussed in paper sessions and exercises involving participants and students, exploring the question of how to educate the next generation of practitioners to meet these challenges. Registration fee is \$350.00.



## Important Dates

Deadline for abstracts	<b>15 March 2008</b>
Notification of acceptance of abstracts	<b>1 April 2008</b>
Deadline for submission of papers	<b>15 June 2008</b>
Notification of acceptance of papers	<b>1 July 2008</b>
Registration deadline with payment of conference fee	<b>15 August 2008</b>

## Student Competition

We also are organizing an international student competition to accompany this conference.

***The competition provides a unique opportunity for future architects to challenge conventional approaches to design, and to investigate and develop new concepts for an open and sustainable architecture for the 21st century.***

The Competition projects are expected to assume a temporal identity in architecture through the maximization of its momentary and fleeting event-structure. Entries should place strong emphasis on performance of buildings and neighborhoods on the time axis. In so doing, they should offer a critical look at architectural traditions, including the idea of architecture as stones-in-the-water monuments. In addition, a new understanding of environment and sustainable development now calls for an architecture of process, based on new methodologies. Therefore, entries will need to describe approaches to composing transparent processes and open-ended environments that establish connections between people and their surroundings, between the past, present and future, and that allow them to experience these places and built-form through thoughtful re-use and rediscovery.

This is an open competition with limited restrictions. It intended to challenge students, working individually or in teams, to explore a variety of design issues related to open building principles in an urban context. The studio teachers and students are encouraged to explore the many varied functional, social, political, aesthetic and environmental issues in different scales and type of projects, for their own places or cities. It also allows the students, with the approval of the sponsoring faculty member, to select a site, a community, and building use type.

Entries will be critiqued and judged by an international jury of experts with backgrounds in Urban Design, Landscape Architecture and Architecture. This competition also is aimed to assist instructors to develop a range of teaching approaches for use in their courses. First, second and third cash prizes are being offered. Winners will be given a stipend to help pay for the cost of attending the conference to accept their awards.

## Important Dates

Registration Begins:	<b>January 21, 2008</b>
Registration Deadline:	<b>March 8, 2008</b>
Submission Deadline:	<b>August 30, 2008</b>
Winners Announced:	<b>October 20, 2008</b>

## Conference Budget

The registration fee of \$350 will cover the cost of the printed proceedings, all meals, and miscellaneous items including transportation to and from the airport and shuttles between the local hotels and the campus. It also includes the cost of one keynote speaker (expenses + honorarium) and advertising in the ACSA news. It does not include airfare or hotel expenses. This fee is based on attendance of 50 participants. Attendance is anticipated to be at least 75 people.

The conference is expected to pay for itself, with the exception of one additional keynote speaker for which we need to raise an additional \$3000.

I would also like to produce and distribute an 11x17 color poster to ACSA schools and selected schools overseas. I have not yet estimated the cost of this but the costs would be limited to printing and mailing since the design of the poster is largely finished.

We have the support of a graduate assistant in the Department of Architecture.

## Competition Budget

We do not want to charge a registration fee for the conference. We think charging a fee will be a major disincentive to attracting students to enter.

We are inviting a jury of well-known architects and educators from the US, Europe and Asia. They will not be compensated. To conduct their review, jurors will be asked to accessing the entries at our website and to submit their evaluations electronically to us. We have the support of a graduate assistant in the Department of Architecture.

We want to offer the following prizes:

One First Prize	\$1000
Two Second Prizes	\$600 each
Three Third Prizes	\$400 each

We expect to invite student winners to the conference and to offer a \$1000 stipend to help cover their costs.

Total budget

Prizes	\$3400
Stipends	\$6000
<b>Total Competition Budget</b>	<b>\$9400</b>

## Other Meetings

In conjunction with the conference meetings will take place of the CIB Working Commissions:

- W104 - Open Building Implementation
- W110 - Informal Settlements and Affordable Housing

Requests have been made to a number of private firms in the US and overseas to help underwrite and to be identified as sponsors of the competition.

## Additional Information

Information about the conference and the competition can be found at

[www.bsu.edu/bfi/openarchitectureconference](http://www.bsu.edu/bfi/openarchitectureconference)

The conference is part of the work of the CIB W104 Open Building Implementation network ([www.open-building.org](http://www.open-building.org)) and is being organized locally by Dr. Stephen Kendall, Professor of Architecture and Michael Gibson, Instructor in Architecture.

Contact [openarch@bsu.edu](mailto:openarch@bsu.edu) for further information. Melanie Smith, College of Architecture and Planning.

For additional information about the CIB W104 meetings please contact the Coordinators: Stephen Kendall [skendall@bsu.edu](mailto:skendall@bsu.edu), Beisi Jia [jia@arch.hku.hk](mailto:jia@arch.hku.hk), and Kasunobu Minami [k-minami@sic.shibaura-it.ac.jp](mailto:k-minami@sic.shibaura-it.ac.jp).



You can find more information on the activities of CIB W104 at [www.cibworld.nl/website](http://www.cibworld.nl/website) - section Search under Databases/CIB Commissions. Click on Commissions and type W104 in the search field.