

# NEWS LETTER



Welcome to the Spring 2008 Newsletter of the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning through Design.

We are delighted to announce the launch of a new project in 'Learning Spaces' that will be led by Dr Jos Boys, whose background in architecture, design teaching and academic development in ICT for learning and teaching will stand her in good stead for this project which will be examining the relationship between student learning and the growing range of spaces and places within which learning takes place.



The Centre has funded 28 projects, including 2 student-led projects. A report on the first of the student projects follows in this newsletter.

Interim and final reports of projects can be found on our website: [www.brighton.ac.uk/design/cetld/projects](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/design/cetld/projects).

## 'Mobility Of The Line: An Interdisciplinary Conversation'

The first student-led project funded by CETLD culminated in a symposium and exhibition event 'Mobility of the Line: an Interdisciplinary Conversation' held at the Sallis Benney Theatre at the University of Brighton from 10 - 12 January 2008.

The event was successfully organized by the MA Architectural and Urban Studies Postgraduate students and overseen by their course leader Dr. Ivana Wingham. Parallel to the organisation of this event, the students also provided their own two-part design dissertation that dealt

broadly with the ideas how a line can acquire mobility in an urban, imaginary, experiential and surreal space. Their practice-led research was individually exhibited.

The international symposium and exhibition 'An Interdisciplinary Conversation: Mobility of the Line' evolved as a result of postgraduate debate on the nature of drawing and architectural space. This project created a space for conversations between disciplines, between postgraduate students, between national and international theoreticians and practitioners.

This inter-disciplinary event featured a symposium with international and national speakers from disciplines including architecture, graphic design, sculpture, photography, media and communications, art and other design disciplines. Anne Boddington, Dean of the Faculty of Art and Design at the University of Brighton, introduced five sessions: 'Placing the Line', 'Line as a Metaphor', 'Performance of the Line', 'Line as a Message' and 'Drawing of Lines'. The list of speakers included Dr Tracey Bowen, Angus Leadley Brown, Shirley Chubb, Sean Clute, Professor George Hardie, Brian Hatton, Professor Jonathan Hill, Professor Charlie Hooker, Michael Howe, Kristen Kreider, Professor Neil Leach, Igor Marjanovic, Will Nash, Professor Maxine Naylor, Giacomo Picca, Chris Rose, Anne Peirson Smith, Dr Teresa Stoppani, Dr Maria Theodorou, Professor Greg Votolato and Dr Ivana Wingham. The event was well attended and allowed students the opportunity to listen to a broad range of lectures and approaches on the theme of how line may be interpreted within a variety of disciplines. The symposium encouraged conversations between speakers and the audience.



Professor Jonathan Woodham, Director of Research and Development in the Faculty of Arts & Architecture, focused on practice-led research and growing postgraduate culture at the University of Brighton. Three sessions 'Mapping the Invisible Lines', 'Travelling and Imaginary Lines' and 'Meaning and Making of Lines' featured MA and PhD student presentations. An exhibition of each of the Postgraduate organisers' own conceptual approach to the theme in seven projects and seven drawings dealt with the mobile line as a tool of generating urban and architectural designed spaces. The mobile line took on different roles and became an urban wavelength, a light projecting metaphor, a map travelogue, an immaterial trace of pedestrians, an invisible city framework, a mediator between 2d and 3d surfaces and a tool for re-appropriating designed space. The students were preoccupied with how their constructed lines could re-shape the experience, the effect or even an actual space itself. The changeability of the mobile line had been explored in a range of design disciplines in order to inform a new way of perceiving the line within architectural design.

#### 'Mobility of the Line' - Student Learning Experience

In combination with producing and presenting their own work the students had to work outside of the conventional academic structure and face the issues that usually arise in practice – such as sponsorship and raising funds, budget management and promotion of the event. The students faced many challenges that included attracting a list of international and national speakers as well as the arrangement and organisation of different venues that were rewarded by an extremely positive response considering the modest budget.



The event received an excellent response from all the participants, speakers and delegates.

*'Can I say a sincere thank you to you all for your hard work and supreme professionalism in organizing this international symposium so successfully. I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it - you looked after us all so well.'*

*The presentations were very informative and thought provoking and all tied so well together under the well-chosen theme and I had some inspiring interdisciplinary exchanges. I'm sure that Ivana is very proud of you all – it was a fantastic effort.'*

*Associate Professor Anne-Peirson Smith, (City University, Hong Kong)*

Considering the fact that this was the first event of its kind it was a significant achievement that opened the way for future Postgraduate students at the University of Brighton to continue this innovative new way of learning and teaching and lay the foundations for similar student-led events.

This educationally innovative project was supported by The Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning through Design (CETLD) and its Director and Dean of Faculty of Arts & Architecture, Anne Boddington. Additional support was offered by the University of Brighton and the Head of Architecture and Design, Dr Catherine Harper. The funding for the printing of the booklet was kindly provided by Scott Brownrigg and DLA Design Group.

#### Organizing Committee:

Valentina Aurova, Chun-Hao Chiang (Johnny), Wei Jiang (Orlando), Jr-Chiau Shiu (George), George Themistocleous, Hui Tseng (Kate), Dong Wang (Estelle)

#### Academic Advisor:

Dr. Ivana Wingham

### **Creative recycling of waste glass as a tool for teaching and research**

Dr Elena Sazhina reports on the CETLD project on '**Creative recycling of waste glass**' which started in April 2007 and is still in progress. For Elena, embedding sustainability and eco-issues into undergraduate teaching is seen as a priority and this project aims to address the growing concern for design and engineering students who lack mathematical and technical skills when confronted with the study of technical subjects. This, she feels, is seen as a problem on a national scale - hence the search for learning approaches that work for this cohort.

The approach under development aims to enhance learning by practice by providing hands-on experience for students. The project enabled setting up a new facility for creative glass recycling. It is equipped with glass granulator, range of furnaces, polisher and glass cutter. As an outcome of the project a series of laboratory sessions for more than a hundred undergraduate students have been devised and implemented into existing modules. In addition, surgeries for design and engineering students' projects are running

on an individual basis. One of the year 1 Design students in the School of Environment & Technology responded to the project by writing,



'The waste glass lab was very beneficial to me as I learned more about glass, its properties & processing, and recycling issues. I feel it is better to show things practically as it actually shows you what the lecture was teaching us about. And if the information I received in the lab was taught during a lecture I don't think I would have understood the whole issue. As I am more of a practical learner I feel if this was purely taught in lectures I wouldn't take or learn much at all. I feel that if the labs didn't exist, a lot of students would be completely lost or getting the wrong end of the stick as it could be described.'

Dr Sazhina feels that the project has made a substantial impact towards postgraduate research. Several research projects on innovative solutions for waste glass applications have been accomplished in MSc Product Innovation and Development. A patent application on TinGlass construction block is in progress while another student has focused his work on the artistic dimension of waste glass work. A recent work by a student was focused on practical and decorative waste glass objects. A PhD student recently presented a paper at an international conference on sustainable construction.

The students were encouraged to use museum resources such as Victoria and Albert museum and the Glass Gallery has provided material for enhancing historical and cultural perspectives when working on design projects in waste glass.

Further interdisciplinary research is being explored through collaboration with the Faculty of Arts and Architecture. A recent visit by a group of staff and students from the Faculty of Arts and Architecture to the glass processing facility has paved the way to more collaboration between students and staff in the future.

## CETLD work at the V&A

### iGuides Project



Final versions of web-based trails around the V&A are being produced. These include trails such as:

- 'Reflections on Glass', featuring comments from designer Danny Lane on the balustrade he designed in the Glass gallery side-by-side with comments from senior curator in the V&A's Glass and Ceramics department Reino Liefkes, and design student Alex House on the balustrade.
- 'On Display', comparing display techniques in the Islamic Middle East gallery and the shop, featuring comments from senior lecturer in the Faculty of Arts and Architecture Toni Hicks, senior curator in the V&A's Asian department Tim Stanley, shop architect Eva Jiricna and Head of Product Development and Buying at V&A Enterprises Sarah Sevier.
- 'For and Against' which features two design students comparing objects from the V&A's British Galleries with modern objects and inviting the user to vote for the object they prefer.

### Other CETLD work at the V&A.

The Student Placement Programme moves ahead into the New Year. Project placements will be confirmed by mid-February and student recruitment will take place in March 2008. Ideas for placements so far include a number of cataloguing projects and a small design research project. It is hoped that several placements will also be offered at the V&A. The Student Placement Programme offers a once in a lifetime opportunity for students from the University of Brighton and RCA to work alongside the museum and archival experts from one of CETLD's partner institutions.

The programme complements an existing project work conducted by the CETLD team at the V&A including the 'Behind the Scenes at the Museum' research project conducted by Beth Cook and the

extension studies module 'Breaking into the V&A' led by Rebecca Reynolds. A small micro-site for the project will be launched over the next few weeks on the CETLD website <http://cetld.brighton.ac.uk>. Placements will take place between May and November 2008.

### Digital lexicon of terms

Within the V&A CETLD office we have been thinking about the terms that we use in our projects, and have come to realise that there are a lot of terms with 'definition slippage' – terms which hold different meanings within the contexts of museums and Higher Education institutions.

The CETLD Web 2.0 site contains a digital lexicon of terms that we have set up:

<http://cetld2.brighton.ac.uk/iguides/page/iGuides+Digital+Lexicon+of+Terms>

The aim of this is to try and describe and demystify different terms that are used by us, and to find a means to explain these in a straightforward way. We aim to create a useful resource for those working between fields – and we are more than happy to engage in discussions about our definitions! The lexicon of terms includes a facility to add comments to our definitions. We are also interested in adding new terms and definitions so, if you are interested, please take a look and then contact Beth, Catherine or Rebecca with suggestions or comments.

### Exhibitions at the V&A

- The V&A has a number of small temporary displays currently on, all with free admission.

Further information about all of these displays is available on the V&A website

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/index.html>

### Extension studies module

Rebecca Reynolds has started teaching an extension studies module to second year students from a range of subjects in Brighton University's Faculty of Arts and Architecture. Called 'Breaking into the V&A', the module aims to increase students' use of the V&A and its collections.

### New member of staff

The CETLD team based at the V&A were pleased to welcome a new Project Support Officer in November 2007 – Sharla Mann. A practising photographic artist, Sharla recently relocated to Brighton from Vancouver, BC. Sharla holds a BFA in photography and has played various roles within Canadian Art

Education, including managing a busy photographic institute and teaching 2 year olds the wonders of mixed media. Sharla is looking forward to experiencing her new role as Project Support Officer within the team at CETLD.

### Contact us

Further information about all Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning through Design activities and events can be found on the website: [www.brighton.ac.uk/design/cetld](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/design/cetld).

For any other inquiries please contact us:

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V&A



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