N E W S
LETTER

Welcome to the Summer 2008 Newsletter of the Centre for Excellence in Teaching & Learning through Design

The final round of our project funding was awarded to partners at the University of Brighton, RCA, RIBA and V&A in early June and we are pleased to have funded a total of 40 projects. Details of these and reports from earlier projects are beginning to be posted on the website: www.brighton.ac.uk/design/cetld. Several of the projects will have audio-visual outputs appropriate to the subject area of their research.

Staffing

Dr Philippa Lyon has joined the team as Research Fellow on a 0.5 basis. Philippa will be working part time on activities related to the 150th anniversary of the art school at Brighton and part time on writing up the findings and themes arising from the Design CETL projects.

Anna Kay will be returning to her role as Centre Administrator from maternity leave on 9th July on a part time basis. Debbie Hickmott will be continuing to work here but reducing her hours to a part time post.

Forthcoming events

The Design CETL and the HEA Subject Centre for Health Sciences and Practice are planning a joint interdisciplinary event on Art, Design and Health in Spring 2009. Further details will soon be available on our websites.
We will also be the running a joint event with the Art Design Media Subject Centre of the HEA on Higher Education students' use of museum collections in Spring 2009. The venue will be the V&A's Sackler Education Centre which is due to open soon. Details will be posted on our websites as soon as they are available.

Activities at the V&A: iGuides

The V&A Design CETL team are drawing the 'iGuides from StreetAccess' project to a close. Twenty gallery trails have been created and can be accessed on the website www.streetaccess.co.uk/vandacetld.html. Trails with input from Brighton tutors include 'Inside the Cast Courts', 'A Taste of Plaster' and 'Hanging out and Watching People' (3D lecturer Chris Rose), 'Display Strategies' (Toni Hicks) and 'Another Look at the Great Exhibition' (Louise Purbrick). We are now looking into how the trails can be made available through the V&A's new Sackler Centre for Arts Education and working on dissemination of project findings through conferences and journals.

The summative phase of the evaluation programme will be completed by the end of August 2008. The series of research and evaluation reports for the 'iGuides from StreetAccess' project are available from: http://cetld.brighton.ac.uk/projects/current-projects/iGuides

The Student Placement Programme

The CETLD Student Placement Programme has offered 8 students from the University of Brighton and the RCA the opportunity to work behind the scenes at one of CETLD's partner institutions. The programme now moves swiftly into the research and evaluation phase. A joint strategy with the Behind the Scenes research programme has been created to support and reinforce research findings between both projects. We aim to capture students' experiences and reactions by conducting pre- and post-placement interviews. We intend also to interview selected students 6 months after the programme has ended. The aim of this is to gain a meaningful understanding of how their experience of the placement has impacted on their degree courses and/or future work opportunities.

Extending the Campus: museums and universities working together to support student learning

Work has commenced on the 'Extending the Campus' book, which is based around the research, resource development and expertise built up by the team over the last few years. The aim of the book is to further debate about the potential role of museums in higher education and to provide colleagues within both fields with background, issues for debate and examples of programmes of learning used with HE students in the museum. The book aims to draw together a series of case studies from a wider range of related areas including including Design CETL projects, other CETL projects, Museum Studies departments and other museums.

Creative writing extension studies module

A creative writing extension studies module for students from the Faculty of Arts and Architecture is being developed by the Higher Education Officer, Rebecca Reynolds. If you have ideas about this or are interested in contributing, please contact her on r.reynolds@vam.ac.uk.

Perspectives on Podcasts

This project started in June 2008; the Higher Education Officer will do podcast training in June and develop a test podcast after that, based on the Cast Courts. This will include comments on the Courts from V&A architecture education officer Catherine Williamson, Brighton architecture tutor Jos Boys and Interior Architecture BA graduate Mandy Fleming.

Student Technology Report

As in the previous year the DesignCETL is conducting another survey on student's use of technology. This time a particular focus point is the connection between social networking technologies and the educational environment. This survey tries to find out whether technologies such as Facebook, YouTube, flickr, Skype etc. are becoming more important socially and whether there is or should be an integration of those technologies within the educational framework. It will also take a look at how much students depend on equipment as well as software applications being provided by the University, whether the items on offer are sufficient from the student's point of view and where the biggest problems and advantages lie, when it comes to technology and its usage. Students are being asked to fill out questionnaires, which are followed by informal discussions, if time allows for it. It also helps to get an idea of what their impressions and experience with technology are, whether or not they take them for granted and to encourage students to reflect on the way and the context in which they use them. Comparing this year's survey with last year's will establish, whether the fast changing pace of technology has had an effect on the way students use and see it from one year to the other.

We would be happy to hear from any tutors, technicians or any staff that have implemented social networking technologies – successfully or not – into their course structure. If you would like to give us any feedback or share your experience with student's use (or your own) of technology in education, please email Sina Krause - S.Krause@brighton.ac.uk

The evaluation of this survey will be published in the next DesignCETL newsletter.

Mobile Technologies

Part of the DesgnCETL's remit is to enable learning connectivity "any time, any place" using mobile technologies. To further this aim, the DesignCETL had a presence at the recent E-Learning and Educational Technologies conference held at the University of Bristol. The conference was organised by the Language Linguistic Area Studies (LLAS) subject centre of the Higher Education Academy (HEA). Whilst some of the subject matter centred on teaching and learning in languages, a broad range of learning technologies were demonstrated and discussed.

Of particular note was Bristol ChemLabS 'The Dynamic Lab Manual: An interactive online resource for use in teaching practical science'. These online manuals aided chemistry learning by providing online animated models which students could interact with thus enabling students to work 'remotely' on models of laboratory equipment. This saved valuable time in the physical laboratory as students would arrive already familiar with the equipment.

Also noteworthy was the CETL for Active Learning in computing's session on 'Using technology enhanced learning to promote student engagement within the classroom', which also demonstrated innovative uses of technology by redesigning the traditional computer lab so that it utilised smaller, shared learning spaces. These 'techno-cafes' proved to be much more conducive to collaborative work and also featured technology that was 'location aware' for mobile devices. The Techno-Café also recognises individual choice by making the entire environment more hospitable (via wireless connection) to a wide variety of equipment including mobile technologies (in particular those owned by the students themselves).

Perhaps of most interest to the activities of the DesignCETL was the session entitled 'It's my phone and it's my second heart!': a case for mobile language learning'. This presentation from The CETL for Reusable Learning Objects demonstrated how mobile phones could be used as teaching and learning devices by using them to display small interactive applications. Suitably enabled phones were loaded with pre-defined downloadable material and this could then be interacted with at any place or time. Once loaded onto the phone, the use of the application did not require a mobile phone signal hence students reported that they could work with the application almost anywhere, even deep below the surface while travelling on the London underground system!

Mobile Streaming

The DesignCETL also collaborated in a recent project which brought together visual research and mobile streaming. Mobile streaming is a technology which allows mobile devices such as phones and PDAs to view streamed media including video and audio and this content can be accessed anywhere that there is a mobile phone signal. The project piloted the use of this technology with a small group of students from the BA Textile Design course at the University of Brighton. The main findings were that whilst the cost of sending data over the mobile phone network is currently somewhat prohibitive, students nonetheless found the flexibility that mobile streaming provides for 'learning-on-the-go' very useful and they reported that they would be interested in using the service again in the future.

If you would like any more information on any of the initiatives described here or would like to discuss using any of the technologies for your own project, please contact Roland Mathews at the DesignCETL r.mathews@brighton.ac.uk 01273 643974.

150th Anniversary of the University of Brighton's School of Art

Next year sees the University of Brighton's School of Art celebrate its 150th anniversary. The Brighton School of Art has a long and engaging history, having begun life in a room next to the kitchen in the Royal Pavilion in 1859. Art and design education at Brighton has changed greatly over its 150 years, from the earliest days when practical art classes were sometimes moved to allow for the preparation of ban-

quets being held at the Pavilion.

THE ANTIQUE ROOM C. 1900

Since then the School of Art has undergone many changes. It has been relocated to buildings in Grand Parade, offered diploma classes and then degree programmes and was incorporated into Brighton Polytechnic, before finally becoming part of the University of Brighton. It has been connected with a number of famous names in the worlds of art, architecture and design, including the illustrator Raymond Briggs, the fashion designer Julien MacDonald and Turner Prize winners Rachel Whiteread and Keith Tyson. It has an international reputation and, at the same time, is a vibrant part of Brighton life and culture. To celebrate the 150th year of the Brighton School of Art in 2009, the University of Brighton will publish a book, 'Art & Design at Brighton 1859-2009: From Arts and Manufactures to the Creative and Cultural Industries'. There will also be an exhibition and an international conference as part of the anniversary celebrations.

The book will look at the relationship of the school to art, architecture and design education in the UK and globally, and will also feature the local social and cultural life of the school and highlight some of its staff and students, past and present.

Do you have a connection with the Brighton School of Art that you think might be significant? Do you remember being taught by a famous tutor, or recall debates and controversies surrounding the School of Art?

 If you have memories, photographs or documents that might be relevant to the history of the school, please get in touch with either Jonathan Woodham (j.m.woodham@brighton.ac.uk) or Philippa Lyon (p.lyon@brighton.ac.uk) in the Centre for Research and Development, Faculty of Arts and Architecture, University of Brighton, Grand Parade.

Further information can also be found at:
http://artsresearch.brighton.ac.uk/research/projects/150-anniversary

The Online Exhibition Project

Staircase at 2 Willow Road
(architect: Erno Goldfinger)
Property of the National Trust
Photo: Harriet McKay

The Online Exhibition Project began in November 2007 and is led by Jane Devine Mejia, a professional librarian with extensive experience in art, architecture and design research and learning. The archivists in the DesignCETL partnership conceived the project as a way of promoting the use of their archives across the higher education sector. The guiding concept was that the exhibition would draw its content from the University of Brighton Design Archives, the Royal Institute of British Architects drawings and archives, the Royal College of Art collections and the V&A's extensive archival holdings. These collections are exceptional in their richness and diversity, which is both the appeal and the challenge of mounting a collaborative online exhibition. Two further goals of the project are to find effective ways of engaging

students and tutors with this archival material, both for historical/theoretical research and for practice-based inquiry, and to explore the potential of 'students as curators' of their own work and of items selected from the archives.

The prototype exhibition will use existing digitised material documenting the iconic house at 2 Willow Road, Hampstead, designed by modernist architect Erno Goldfinger. Two groups of students from the University of Brighton and the Royal College of Art will be invited to visit this National Trust site and to explore related archives via the online exhibition and through hands-on sessions at the V&A. Using the DesignCETL Web 2.0 site as its host, the exhibition will then serve as a framework for presenting student contributions related to their experience of the archives and the house itself.

As with any collaborative project of this kind, there are a number of logistical and intellectual challenges, ranging from copyright, image display and metadata issues to how to design a virtual exhibition based on best practice in a rapidly changing field. Although online exhibitions are now a common feature of museum and library websites, there are few that seek to involve users in defining their content. Our project will test this participative model to see if it is an effective means of promoting student and tutor use of archives for design research and creative practice.

For more information, please contact Jane Devine Mejia jadm10@brighton.ac.uk

Launching RIBApedia
The Architectural Research Wiki

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) plays a pivotal role in brokering research and facilitating knowledge sharing in the architectural profession. More specifically, through our CETLD-funded wiki initiative, we're harnessing the collaborative spirit of 'web 2.0' to foster community-led innovation across the architectural research community. Academic institutions have continuously shared knowledge and ideas in order to produce new research and innovate. However, the RIBA has found that tools such as wikis offer new methods of collaboration and connection across institutional, professional, and geographical boundaries.

Wiki progress

In 2006, we set up a publicly-accessible architectural research wiki, which has been growing ever since. The wiki is a collection of web pages that can be easily edited by anyone who has completed a free registration process. Our wiki was originally set up using 'Wetpaint', a free wiki website. We've used it as a 'beta' testing environment: open to user feedback, experimentation, and development. Our membership is increasing at a steady rate, and our content has continuously evolved through RIBA facilitation, user-created pages and discussion threads on topics of interest.
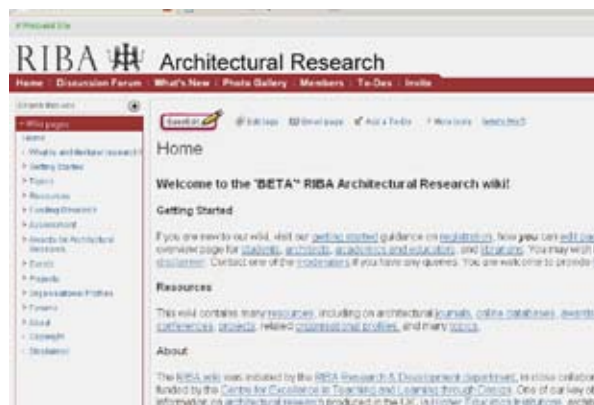
Supporting open peer review

Our wiki effectively enables open peer review—anyone logged into our wiki can edit and add content and can gain wider recognition for their contribution. Indeed, research shows that those who provide open access to their research will be cited more, and that the 'research cycle' of publishing, reading, and citation, is 'enhanced and accelerated when results are available on an Open Access basis' (JISC briefing paper). We are looking at other innovative areas to enable our users—students, academics, researchers, funding bodies, practices—to make connections through our wiki.

'Making Connections'

As part of the project, the consultancy firm 'Consilian' recently published an RIBA-commissioned report entitled 'Making Connections'. The report evaluated the long-term viability of our wiki and how it can most successfully contribute to the research community. It identified that there is a particular need to connect the research produced and disseminated within the academic community with practitioners' valuable knowledge of the construction industry.

In this context, our wiki initiative has two key objectives:

1. To connect the principal sources of architectural knowledge and research—academics, students, researchers, and practitioners
2. To 'enable large numbers of people to work together in creating shared documents which are edited and refined in an open, democratic process of peer review' (Making Connections, 2008)

In order to ensure success and meet our objectives, we primarily need to engage more users so that they contribute to the wiki. In order to do that, we are improving the look and feel, usability, and current content of the wiki, as well as planning a major re-launch.

Introducing 'RIBApedia'
Our new wiki platform will be powered by Mediawiki, the free open source software originally written for Wikipedia. The content will still be freely available to the public. The wiki will be facilitated by RIBA staff in R&D and by other volunteers.

In addition we are developing user editing tools and guidance. We are using a 'copyleft' Creative Commons license, which will enable anyone to build on and copy content as long as they attribute (properly reference the owner of) the content, and are using it for non-commercial purposes. The license supports the views of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development):

In a digital world where educational users increasingly engage with a culture of cut and paste, remix, collaboration and instant Internet access, open content licensing will provide a vitally important facility for sharing and reshaping knowledge in the name of culture, education and innovation.

Content of the wiki includes information on:
Research bursaries
Research awards
Schools of architecture, organisational profiles (focusing on what architectural support groups, professional bodies, practices and societies offer to the research community)
Annual events
Research projects
A full-text area for research papers with a forum for feedback and discussion

Launch—August 2008
We are hoping to run wiki editing workshops at the CETLD Bene Education Room (located at the RIBA) in July. We aim to launch RIBApedia in mid-August. In addition, we will be promoting the wiki directly to schools of architecture in the new academic year.
If you would like to find out more, including information on Consilian's report 'Making Connections' please email research@inst.riba.org or call Clare Sinclair on 020 7307 3885.

'Design' and Indian Traditional Manufacturing
Chris Rose, project leader, writes 'this project is designed to promote and develop peer-to-peer discussion and cross cultural perceptions of traditional vernacular making culture as it collides with the forces of 'development' and globalization. In talking with students, academics, NGO participants, villagers and activists, preconceptions can be confronted and the reconsideration of what is 'local' in our respective contexts can be given fresh and sometimes surprising agendas.

Two student ambassadors have visited two NGOs and an independent crafts village in the Karnatic region of southern India and have met with faculty members of the Srishti college of Art Design and Technology. Chris Rose, Seainin Passi and David Hood (Teaching staff and graduates respectively from the School of Architecture and Design) are negotiating arrangements that will best support emergent themes for those students participating in the next phase of this CETLD project. Longer-term involvements are being considered, building upon connections between the University of Brighton, Srishti College of Art Design and Technology, and Rhode Island School of Design. During academic year 2008-9 a student project in parallel with a group at Srishti, together with a creative workshop phase here at Brighton with visiting Srishti faculty member Arvind Lodaya, will develop some of the emergent themes for student project work and assist those students wishing to develop related themes in self directed study for their third and fourth year work. Some questions we are considering as this project unfolds include:

• Are there any universals in material culture?
• Can a cross-cultural design process have any meaning?
• Which direction does 'expertise' travel?
• What is place-based education?
• What can we learn here in our own environment from one of the frontiers of cultural displacement?
• What can be learnt from an older generation?'