

THROUGH

LEARNING

AND

TEACHING

IN
EXCELLENCE

CENTRE FOR

NEWS

Newsletter Issue I October 2006

Welcome to the first edition of the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning through Design's newsletter.

The CETLD is a HEFCE-funded project which has the University of Brighton, Royal Institute of British Architects, V&A Museum and the Royal College of Art as partners. The aim of the Centre is to enhance learning and teaching in design through research that brings together resources and expertise from Higher Education and collections-based partners.

The preparations have been completed: refurbishments at the University of Brighton, the V&A and RIBA are either completed or well underway; staff have been appointed at Brighton and at the V&A; equipment has been purchased; projects are proceeding well; dissemination events are planned and the Centre is officially launched at the end of October.

Building Works

CETLD-funded refurbishment work is taking place at the University of Brighton, the V&A and RIBA. The CETLD space at the University of Brighton opened on 25th September 2006, the first day of the Autumn term. Office accommodation and a meeting area at the V&A

were completed in May 2006. The RIBA Education/Study Room will contribute to the educational goals of the British Architectural Library and the CETLD will contribute to the educational goals of the British Architectural Library and the CETLD and will be ready for use later in the Autumn term.

ICT developments

After several months of development, the new CETLD website has now gone live. It features a completely redesigned layout, greater functionality and a Content Management System for ease of updates. The site will continue to grow with new content as the results of the various CETLD funded projects start to become available. In the coming months, the site will also feature audio-visual material as well as access to a number of other CETLD services including the use of Web 2.0 technologies in a learning environment. See the new site at www.brighton.ac.uk/design/cetld

CT Equipment has been purchased and delivered to each of the CETLD partner institutions to enable the capture, editing and playback of audiovisual material.



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The equipment includes digital voice recorders, digital cameras and camcorders, digital projectors, PDAs, mobile phones and iPods. The equipment will be used in the various CETLD funded projects and allow the creation of a wide variety of audio-visual content for dissemination through the CETLD website.

Research Studentships

The CETLD and the Art Design Media Subject Centre of the Higher Education Academy are planning to fund two PhD studentships to conduct research into learning through HE students' engagement with museum and archive collections.



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Projects underway:
'See what I'm saying?'
(applying visual research through digital media and spoken language to objects in collections) with Patrick Letshka and Jill Seddon of the Faculty of Arts & Architecture at the University of Brighton. This research project will use technologies that undergraduate students personally own, carry and use on a daily basis (eg mobile phones, PDAs, digital cameras) and refocus these technologies into the academic practice of visual research in order to examine, reflect on and articulate the process of object creation.

'Spotlight:
Exploring virtual learning through interdisciplinary collaboration' with Chris Mitchell, Royal College of Art: the RCA will seek to address several key challenges for the undergraduate and postgraduate

design sector: preparing students with the necessary reflective and analytical tools to succeed beyond graduation and into professional practice; bringing students from different disciplines - with contrasting backgrounds, intellectual traditions and curricula - together to explore and debate their work collaboratively; and investigating how advances in the design and ubiquity of virtual learning technologies impact on the experience of design study

'Architectural Pedagogy',
with Richard Patterson, Stephen Ryan, Chris Pierce and Karin Jaschke of the Faculty of Arts & Architecture, University of Brighton and RIBA Education Department

'The development of learning 'capsules' in the history and theory of architecture'
with Dr Irena Murray, RIBA British Architectural Library, Professor John McKean and Karen Jaschke of the University of Brighton. This work will have three strands: factual encyclopedic entries, a running historical narrative, and about 140 stand-alone, explanatory texts ('capsules'), punctuating the narrative. These short capsules will elucidate key issues in the history and theory of architecture. The CETLD project was

conceived as a way of using the 'capsules' in addressing the needs of the student researching on the web and in the book.

'Exploring the relationship between teaching and learning through practice'
with Cynthia Cousens and Alma Boyes, Faculty of Arts & Architecture, University of Brighton. This project will explore how students learn through observation, demonstration, emulation and how they use this as part of the creative process.



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'Guides from StreetAccess'
with Rebecca Reynolds, Catherine Speight of the CETLD at the V&A: iGuides from StreetAccess provide web-based services linking educational institutions and museums, galleries and other public spaces. This project aims to support HE students in using V&A collections by provid-

ing access to online learning materials in the form of themed trails written in consultation with students and tutors and evaluating their effectiveness. The research will analyse HE students' and tutors' needs when using museums, and the ways in which they use mobile resources in their teaching and learning.



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Further information about projects can be found on the CETLD website: www.brighton.ac.uk/design/cetld



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Funded Projects **'Using biomechanics to enhance student learning about chair design:**

Development of an innovative teaching programme'

This project is a collaboration with Dr Inam Haq, Brighton & Sussex Medical School, Professor Raymond Lee, School of Health Professions and Christopher Rose, School of Architecture & Design at the University of Brighton. Christopher Rose, Programme Leader of Three Dimensional Design & Materials Practice, "the first stage of the CETLD chair design project will involve a one-day visit to the Biomechanics lab at the Eastbourne Campus by a group of second year students of Three Dimensional Design from the Faculty of Arts and Architecture.

The session will involve comparison of ten contrasting chair designs from different periods and will explore issues of general interaction and observation from the perspective of the 'sitters'. Many aspects of our experience with chairs and seating are

unconscious until we experience problems or difficulties. Chair design embodies an interesting collision between the iconic and the functional, usually involving the relatively unnatural right-angle posture now thought to be inherently problematic. There are both immediate and longer term design aspects to this, and we will initially explore the language that individuals use to begin to appreciate these. In the first session, this will be followed by a re-run of individual interactions with selected chairs, this time with various techniques of detail movement analysis using the facilities of the lab. This will record and reveal further information and allow us to begin to appreciate some of the complexities of human interaction and movement. These include anticipation, haptic memory and the physical movements we take for granted until affected by age or certain physiological problems which need awareness on the part of the designer and the medical practitioner. In this way 'ergonomics' becomes a dynamic study open to question, and requiring appropriate modelling.

The cross-disciplinary nature of the workshop will provide an ideal model of the challenges involved in effectively representing and communicating specialist considerations to each other without jargon. Effective design will increasingly require good interdisciplinary

communication.

The workshops that are run in this project will seek to be experience-based and to model a variety of factors in a comparative manner. This is intended to make specialist information more accessible."

Events **Design Scholarship seminars**

2006

1st November
'Content and Context: Creating Meaning in the Virtual Archive': Catherine Moriarty
8th November
'Architectural Pedagogy': Richard Patterson
6th December
'Students' use of museum collections': V&A staff + CETLD staff: Catherine Speight and Rebecca Reynolds

2007

17th January 2007
'See what I'm saying': Patrick Letschka, Jill Seddon, University of Brighton
31st January 2007
'Creating an Archive': Eleanor Gawne of RIBA
14th February
'Online Collaboration': Chris Mitchell, Royal College of Art
21st March 2007
Dr Inam Haq, Brighton & Sussex Medical School and Chris Rose, University of Brighton
'Ergonomics and Chair Design'
25th April 2007
Dr Irena Murray, RIBA and Professor John McKean, University of Brighton
9th May 2007
Cynthia Cousens and Alma Boyes, University of Brighton
'Exploring the relationship between teaching and learning through practice'

CETLD Partners: **Project Event**

On the afternoon of 30th November 2006 we will be holding an event at the V&A to bring together staff from partner institutions who are interested in sharing ideas about proposals for future collaborative CETLD projects. For further information email: CETLD@brighton.ac.uk

ELIA Teachers' Academy

The European League of Institutes of the Arts' Teachers' Academy 2007 will be held from 12th - 14th July 2007 at the University of Brighton. Check their website for further details: www.elia-artschools.org



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Further information about all CETLD activities and events can be found on the website:
www.brighton.ac.uk/design/cetld

