SBSE Pomona Retreat—7 Spaces Available

Although the registration deadline has passed, you still have an opportunity to attend this “informal” retreat. In the spirit of the Clark Fork, Idaho, and Seahorse Key, Florida, retreats the participants will shape the agenda for our discussion of ecological education.

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INFO

The retreat will occur Wednesday, June 19 (arrive midday) through Sunday, June 23 (depart midday) at the Center for Regenerative Studies, Cal Poly, Pomona, CA. Cost is $200 (not including transportation). The center accommodates 20 people. At press time, 15 SBSEers had registered. Registration is now on a first-come, first-served basis. If you want to participate, send a brief statement of interest with your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address to Mary Guzowski <guzows001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>; or Department of Architecture, University of Minnesota, 89 Church St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455. For additional local field trip information, contact Margaret McDonald <mmcdonald@boise.ac.calgoly.edu> or Hofu Wu <hwu@csupomona.edu> for info on the Center for Regenerative Studies.

WHY LA?

Some of you may be asking why SBSE would hold a retreat in Los Angeles—whatever happened to rustic retreats? Los Angeles is the epitome of an unsustainable environment for all species. The severity of the environmental problems in this region exist in stark contrast to the natural beauty of the ocean, mountains, creeks, and valleys surrounding the city and visible on rare occasions. It is for this reason that we have chosen to “retreat” to the City of Angels, which is crying for a better way of life. Join us in a search for environmental, spiritual, and professional restoration of our selves, communities, ecosystems, and cities—all through explorations of our teaching and the environment.

SBSE Annual Meeting at ASES Passive ‘96

The annual meeting is scheduled for Asheville, NC, Tuesday, April 16, 6:00 p.m., followed by an SBSE dinner at a great local eatery. ASES will list our meeting room in the conference schedule.

AGENDA

1. Retreats—Cypress and Pomona
2. Walter Grondzik—peer review, SBSE journal, continuing education
3. Next year—summer conference, retreat, or Vital Signs?
4. Murray Milne—the Inter-University
5. SBSE curriculum materials

1996 SBSE Cyprus Retreat POSTPONED
Happy New Year! It’s 20℃ this morning (including the wind chill factor); there is so much frost on my old windows that it looks like that plastic material you put on bathroom windows for privacy!

Loved the newsletter. I see that I managed to make it in twice even though I didn’t even put in any news! Photo and everything!

—Terri Payes Beak, Watertown

[Hummum! Do you all detect a trend—nice newsletter, weird weather? Maybe, if rainwater harvesting gets weirder . . .—ed.]

Richard Meier turns green

“Richard Meier has never been known for his environmental sensitivity. Until recently, the architect treated his golden metal skins and glass curtain walls as abstract surfaces, without much regard for their thermal performance or energy efficiency . . . Meier’s recent European commissions, however, have focused the architect to rethink his detailing. Stinging regulations . . . have resulted in energy-efficient cladding and daylighting systems, operable windows, and integrated sunscreens in Meier’s designs.”

—Raul A. Barreneche

Richard Meier

Auditorium February 1996

[Check out the February issue. It’s great fodder for a Dr. Jekyll–Mr. Hyde lecture on sustainable design.—ed.]

LETTER FROM THE EDGE

I’ve taken the liberty of subscribing you (if I know your e-mail address) to a list server, sbse, for rapid and informal communications among SBSE members. The list is unsupervised, so anything you post gets mailed to everyone on the list. I hope it won’t be annoying, at least not more annoying than I am. If you want to subscribe, send “subscribe sbse” (don’t use the quotes) to <majordomo@uidaho.edu>. Major- domo is the computer robot that manages the day-to-day operations for the list. To send stuff to everybody, address it to <sbse@uidaho.edu>.

I hope this works well and gives you all a fast, informal way to exchange information and ideas more pressing or transient than the SBSE News printing schedule allows.

—Bruce Highland, University of Idaho

The list server robot seems to be working, finally. After three attempts, I managed to send my welcome message. (Hooray, increase your disk quota or clean out your mailbox.) Russ Leslie has already used the list to recruit grad students. So, proceed with appropriate technophobia.—ed.

WEB WATCH WITH WALTER

URL: HTTP://WWW.KENT.EDU/HOMEPAGE.HTML

Check out the sustainability issue of Architrone, Kent State’s electronic journal.

—Walter Gnadt

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Southern California Gas Company’s Energy Resource Center, Downey, California

Richard Meier has never been known for his environmental sensitivity. Until recently, the architect treated his golden metal skins and glass curtain walls as abstract surfaces, without much regard for their thermal performance or energy efficiency . . . Meier’s recent European commissions, however, have forced the architect to rethink his detailing. Stinging regulations . . . have resulted in energy-efficient cladding and daylighting systems, operable windows, and integrated sunscreens in Meier’s designs.”

—Raul A. Barreneche

Richie Meier

Auditorium February 1996

[Check out the February issue. It’s great fodder for a Dr. Jekyll–Mr. Hyde lecture on sustain- able design.—ed.]

Photo: Architecture, February 1996

DIRECT SUNLIGHT BREAKS INTO MEIER’S NEW GAGNON GALLERY IN BEVERLY HILLS.
The first round of case study development projects has been selected.

Arizona State University will investigate the Phoenix Main Library (Bruder/Arup) and Taliesin West Drafting Room (Wright). The team of David Schechtel, Martine Addison, and Michael Koelting will involve four lecture/lab courses in studies of energy and lighting design performance, environmental control systems, and energy and lighting simulation techniques.

Ball State University’s Robert Koelting will investigate several on-campus buildings and an I.M. Pei library in Columbus, Ohio. His lecture/lab will monitor daylighting design and performance, electric lighting design and performance, glazing selection and performance, and HVAC systems integration and performance.

First-year students at Kansas State University taught by John Seltridge will study the Frank Carlson Federal Building, the Allen House (Wright), Seaton Hall at KSU, and several contemporary office/commercial buildings. Research topics will include overall energy performance; evolution of a building and changes in lighting, daylighting, and energy use; assessment of occupant behavior, productivity, and well being; and comparisons of measured conditions and occupant perceptions.

Jack Kremers’ environmental technology lecture/lab class at Kent State University will document the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (Pei). Students will pay $50 each (particular attention to the effects of solar radiation on building performance with respect to visual and thermal environments, particularly in light of the fact that the building was reoriented 180° to accommodate a different site after building design was completed.

At Reusselale Polytechnic Institute Walter Kroener will conduct a study of eight building types—museum, laboratory, church, airport, visitor information center, indoor swimming pool, city hall, and office building. His introductory lecture class on comfort, climate, and energy will document occupant perception of buildings, successes and failures of architectural elements that lead to these perceptions, daylighting design and performance, and design for solar access and solar control.

Donald Watson’s studio will examine Exeter Library ( Kahn), Mt. Aisy Library (Maizura), University of Michigan Law Library (Birkerts), and Mt. Angel Abbey Library (Aalto) concentrating on daylighting design and performance; comparison of daylight models to field conditions; and analysis of specific daylighting factors reported by occupants.

A technology seminar at Temple University taught by J. Brooke Harrington will delve into Wu Han’s Library (Scott Brown), Shelly Ridge Elementary School and McGraw High School (Jackson Architects), and West Middle School Building at the Shipley School (Kieran Timberlake & Harris Architects). Their investigation topics will include design for daylighting and thermal, acoustic, and visual comfort; the range of comfort levels; and the evolution over 20 years of a model solar building.

Texas A&M Research University’s Larry O. Degelman will supervise independent graduate studies of the SM Research Center (Austin/CIRS), the Art Museum of South Texas (Corpus Christi/Johnson), Dallas Symphony Hall (Dallas/Pei), Kimbell Art Museum (Ft. Worth/Kahn), Lyndon B. Johnson Library (Austin), and the National Wildflower Research Center (Austin). Daylighting design and performance; effect of high thermal mass; medical installations; comfort and climate, environmental systems interactions, and solar shading and performance will be the focus of their studies.

A graduate seminar at the University of Washington taught by Marietta S. Millet will seek insights into the Museum of Anthropology (University of British Columbia/Erickson) in regards to daylighting design and performance, electric lighting design and performance, glazing selection and performance, and HVAC systems integration and performance.

—Bill Drake

ACSA has elevated its announced technology session to a one-day [How generous of them!—ed.] Technology Mini-Conference with a separate $45 registration fee option. The March 9 event in Boston featured six SBSE member-delivered papers among the seven paper sessions. [Record snowfall in Boston foulted most transportation to the mini-conference. SBSE revenge?—ed.]

The 1996 Eco-Design Arts Conference, April 11–14, at the University of Oregon, will feature Piny Fisk, Ian McHugh, and Steve Badanes among its invited speakers. For conference info, contact HOPEs at 514–346–0719 or hope5@gladstone.orgeno.edu

ASOS Solar ‘96 ‘Sanctuary in the Smokes’ will be held April 13–18 in Asheville, NC. As well as the SBSE Annual Meeting, Solar ‘96 features twenty technology papers by SBSE members and thirteen workshops—Designing High Performance Solar Buildings, with Murray Mitte (sponsored by UCLA, University of Idaho, and SBSE), Daylighting, with Wayne Place and Faith Riki; and Energy Information on the Internet, with Henry Rogers and Walter Grondzik (sponsored by SBSE). Contact ASOS at 303–443–3150 for conference information.

The ARC Spring Research Conference, ‘Applied Research in Architecture and Planning,’ will be held in Tucson, AZ, April 26 and 27, 1996. The conference venue is the Plaza Hotel and Conference Center as well as the University of Arizona. Presentations will revolve around four themes—Research in and with Practice, Research with and within Industry, Research in Service to the Community, and Research in Education. For more information and registration details, contact Lee Fuller, College of Architecture, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721; phone 520–621–9819; fax 520–621–8700, <sbse@arizona.edu>.

The Inter-University Update

The Inter-University Update

I just presented a paper, “Proposal for a National Academy of Architectural Sciences,” in Delhi, Holland, at the conference on doctoral programs in architecture, sponsored by the European Association of Architectural Educators (EAAE, similar to ACSA). Europe has half the number of schools as does the U.S. but awards twice as many Ph.D.s. European schools emphasize architectural history and academic research.

On the closing panel some of the speakers talked about the need to address problems of the profession, enhance our technical sophistication, build coalitions among universities, and take advantage of information networks—everything our proposal addresses. No other proposals for new types of doctoral programs were presented. U.S. representatives were far more interested in the Inter-University proposal than were those from Europe (who knows why). I have now learned about two programs in the U.S. that use our model for professional, doctoral work (more on them later).

[Do you refer to the newly-formed doctoral program in environmental design and planning headed by Mike Kroelinger at ASU? Areas of concentration in design and planning include appropriate technology, climate-responsive design, energy modeling, lighting, passive solar energy and conservation, environmental planning, landscape ecology, and the protection of environmentally sensitive areas. Jeff Cook, Randy El Dainty, Mike Kroelinger, David Schechtel, and Fritz Steiner are among the faculty—ed.]

It was terribly cold in the Netherlands, setting records for sustained sub-freezing weather. The canals were “under rocks”—great for the long-distance skaters! [Imagine Murray as Hans Brinker—ed.] Is our climate changing?

Conference Ops

I have been appointed director of the interdisciplinary doctoral program in Environmental Design and Planning at Arizona State University.

Marietta Millet lectured on her newly published Eight Reevaluating Architecture at the Martin Centre for Architectural and Urban Studies in Cambridge, at the Seattle Lighting Design Lab’s Northwest Daylighting Forum, and at the University of Idaho.

ACSA has cited Ikhlas Sabouni for Creative Achievement. Besides her seminars in energy auditing for Texas towns, she has mobi lized a faculty team and community leaders to build a community center in Prairie View with the support of a H.E. Dr. Grant. led the Mars Habitat design project in cooperation with NASA, and proposed improvements to Houston’s transportation infrastructure.

AIA Arizona conferred its Arizona Architect Medal on Dave Schechtel for outstanding accomplishment as a leader in the AIA, the educational community, and the architectural profession as well so society.

Hufa Wu tossed his hat in the ring for the position of ACSA Secretary. His résumé cite experiences as SBSE secretary which recom mends him well for the less demanding ACSA post.

SBSE PEOPLE

G. Z. Brown received a 8750.00 US DOE Phase I SBSE grant for a new technology-based Relocatable Classroom Project. During this phase, prototypical units will be constructed for testing and monitoring. Units will be placed on school district sites in five climate zones for on-site evaluation.

Mark DeKay’s teaching in environmental and ecological building design continues to receive recognition—this time a full-page article in the Washington University newsletter. ‘The emerging paradigm of technical education treats buildings as whole systems,’ DeKay says. ‘It emphasizes the interrelations between systems and between elements and their context. Concerns like technology and energy are seen less as separate topics and are more intimately tied to social meaning, human values, aesthetics, and design intentions.’

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