SBSE ON SOPAIPILLAS

The SBSE Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 17, 1998, at the ASES Conference in Albuquerque. [Mmmmmm, New Mexico, sopaipilla capital of the world–ed.]

Treasurer’s Report. Leonard Bachman, past treasurer, provided current figures on SBSE accounts [$16.5K–ed.], including funds held by SBSE for the incubating Academy of Architectural Science [$2K–ed.]. The treasury has been turned over to Terri Boake.

Elections. We are in a non-election year. Start planning for nominations next year–prospect for prospective candidates.

ARCC/SBSE. With three SBSE members in officer positions with the Architectural Research Centers Consortium (ARCC), we are in good stead! Walter Grondzik reported on the efforts of ARCC and the ACSA Technology Conference planners to combine venues. Announcements for next year’s joint ACSA Technology/CIB/ARCC Conference appeared in the May 1998 ACSA News.

ACSA Technology/SBSE. SBSE has offered to play an active role in planning and orchestrating the 1999 ACSA Technology Conference in Montréal. Recommendations to ACSA include: technical reviewers for paper submittals, session chairs and moderators, panelists, exhibits of research and student work, and participants (through papers and attendance). Clearly, with the separation of the ACSA Technology Conference from the Annual ACSA Conference as we requested, we have more of an obligation than ever to participate. I encourage everyone to get involved! Note that FULL papers are due January 8, 1999. [See Conference Previews, p.6.–ed.]

Vital Signs 1998. SBSE members continue to participate in the excellent training sessions offered through the Vital Signs Curriculum Project. This year the training will be held in Hopland, California, and the building to be evaluated is the Real Goods Retail Store. [See Vital Signs Update, p.4.–ed.]

EASE/SBSE. The group from Ball State University, Educating Architects for a Sustainable Environ-
• continued page 5

SBSE CALENDAR

1998
Nov 12–14 ARCC Annual Meeting; Washington, DC

1999
Mar 20–23 ACSA Annual Meeting; Minneapolis, MN
Jun 12–16 ASES Solar ’99 Conference; Portland, ME
Jun 16–20 SBSE Annual Meeting; Portland, ME
Jun 16–20 SBSE Retreat; Ferry Beach, Saco, ME
Jun 19–23 ASHRAE Conference
Jun 25–27 ACSA Technology Conference and ARCC Research Conference; Montréal, Québec
Jun 27–30 ACSA Construction Institute; Montréal, Québec

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Look for a dues mailing in August. I am updating our membership records, so please fill out the forms completely and return them. Let’s achieve a complete and accurate e-mail list to reach members with information and “mailings” that are less tree-consumptive and more sustainable. Please grant us permission to also include you in our online membership directory. [See Conference Previews, p.6.–ed.]

– Terri Boake
This letter is very hard to write. First, I want to say how deeply indebted I am to so many of you who took time to write letters on our behalf. Especially, I want to thank Marc Schuler for organizing the effort to save our Sustainable Design program at UCLA.

I wish I could say that all those good deeds were rewarded, but we have now seen the draft of the Academic Senate Review of the Department of Architecture and Urban Design, and it comes down heavily on the side of the two external reviewers who asserted that our areas of specialization be eliminated, that the studio culture be strengthened, and that outside practitioners are best for teaching technology courses.

I am baffled. It seems there is much more to be taught than is ever covered systematically in a studio, that society has every right to hold architects responsible for a wide range of technical competencies, and that a serious systematic program of building science needs a strong, committed full-time faculty. Design is at the core of what we all do as architects; however many aspects of design can be taught far more effectively outside the traditional apprenticeship-mode studio course that, at least at UCLA, has no formal lectures, publishes no syllabus, and requires no written or computational work. I wish I could say UCLA’s experience is unique, but I sense similar movements afoot at other schools. As the world faces exploding technological complexity, and architects grapple ev-

Thanks to SBSdecess for your numerous supportive messages, to Murray and UCLA. Now the bad news–The Graduate Council review did not go well. Sylvia Lavin placed Ralph Lerner (Princeton) on the review panel; he was extremely aggressive in representing her agenda. Murray was given a very brief time to present and was constantly interrupted. In outside conversations, students relayed that they were told sustainability does not need to be taught in architecture, but it could be learned elsewhere, and then easily imported. We all know that is not true, but apparently it can be “sold” when presented with sufficient force. We will see whether the letters to Chancellor Carnesale have any effect, and we hope there is an understanding somewhere in the system of the importance of sustainability in architecture. [In a March 10 response to Jeff Cook’s letter of concern Dean Neuman, at the behest of Chancellor Carnesale, stated, “. . . the current faculty plan to merge the traditional concerns of sustainable design with emerging building and information technologies. As we attempt to recruit faculty who specialize in “green” curtain wall design, lightweight structures, and integrated systems management, and as we enhance our curriculum to reflect these advances in the field, we plan to develop an architecture responsible and adaptive to the new global condition. Our research and pedagogical objectives remain committed to environmental awareness supported by the most advanced technology possible.”—ed.]

But at the same time, this saga sends us all a cautionary note. There are people with agendas in the academic field of architecture who will not hesitate to wipe out sustainability and energy issues, independent of whether those issues are relevant to the profession or to society (or for that matter, the planet) as a whole. We need to formulate a strategy to deal with the problem and not take it for granted that we have support from architectural historians or theorists. They seem to have a very specific idea of what they mean by theory, and it doesn’t include any theories other than their own. Anyway, thanks again to those who wrote in support.

Marc’s concerns are important. For the sake of sanity and resolve, here are some reminders, worth remembering when the going gets tough.

Vitruvius wrote that “architects who have aimed at acquiring skill without scholarship have never been able to reach a position of authority to correspond to their pains, while those who relied only upon theories and scholarship were obviously hunting the shadow, not the substance.” (Morris Hicky Morgan translation, p. 5.)

More recently: NAAB’s new criteria for student performance are quite clear on the expectation that graduating architects understand energy and environmental issues and are able to integrate energy and technology knowledge in design. Newly adopted AIA Honors Award criteria include a very specific statement that AIA awards recognize that designs include environmentally responsible concerns.

The NCARB exam has explicit questions related to energy conservation. In 1999 they will add a set of questions on sustainability.

For several years AIA has advanced issues of environmental sustainability. The most recent editions of two professional reference books—AIA Graphic Standards and Time-Saver Standards for Architectural Design Data—have expanded coverage of energy conservation and environmentally responsible design. Both texts have legal standing in defining the standards of professional practice.

Several national surveys conducted last year placed “energy and environmental issues” among those of foremost concern to architectural practitioners, researchers, and educators.

The leading architectural history texts (Spiro Kostoff, Kenneth Frampton, and Tom Peters) include technology, construction, and material resources as part of understanding architectural history and design (as did Vitruvius). In the mid-1980s, Kostoff defined “environmentalism” a bit differently that we would today, but he did use the word in defining architecture that recognizes and responds to cultural and ecological contexts, including material resources.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This letter is very hard to write. First, I want to say how deeply indebted I am to so many of you who took time to write letters on our behalf. Especially, I want to thank Marc Schuler for organizing the effort to save our Sustainable Design program at UCLA.

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• continued next page
**1999 SBSE Retreat at Ferry Beach**

The 1999 retreat is tentatively scheduled for June 16–19 at Ferry Beach, a conference/retreat center (associated with the Unitarian Universalist Association) in Saco, Maine, twelve miles south of Portland. We anticipate that participants arrive for Wednesday dinner after the SBSE Annual Meeting at ASES. These dates and locations are ideal for coordinating the retreat with the 1999 ASES Conference in Portland (June 12–16) and the ACSA Technology conference (June 25–27 in Montréal). Ferry Beach is in the middle of a vacation paradise. The facility is on Saco Bay, an arm of the Atlantic Ocean. It is an excellent place to bring your spouse, partner, or children. Childcare is available and activities abound for all ages. If sufficient interest is shown, we will develop a program for spouses and guests. Extended stays to coordinate with your ACSA plans may also be possible. Transportation to and from Portland Jetport is available. Accommodations are spartan, but comfortable, with double, triple, and quad rooms (all with shared bathrooms) and family-style meals. 1998 daily rates are $45 for room and meals ($37 for teens 13–17, and $25 for children 4–12). Our conference fee is expected to run no more than $250.

The steering committee for the 1999 retreat includes Eric Angevine, Harvey Bryan, Paul Clarke, Chris Luebckeman, and Jonathan Reich. Paul (Virginia Tech) and Jonathan (Idaho) are massaging the program for the Retreat; Eric Angevine (Oklahoma State) is the site logistics coordinator; and Harvey Bryan (SBSEer-at-large) is the CEU site/program coordinator.

—Eric Angevine

**UCLA Be Ruins [continued]**

And, in an important and inciteful lecture, “Environments at Risk” (Time Literary Supplement, October 30, 1970, folio 1273), Professor of Social Anthropology Mary Douglas said, “First, let us compare the ecology movement with others of historical times. An example that springs to mind is the movement for the abolition of slavery of a century ago. The abolitionists succeeded in revolutionizing the image of man but not woman, that took another revolution’s ed.). In the same way, the ecology movement will succeed in changing the idea of nature. Strong sanctions against particular pollutants will come into force. It will succeed in these necessary changes for the same reasons as the slavery abolition movement, partly by sheer dedication and mostly because the time is ripe.”

—Don Watson

The AIAS in their recent issue of Charette (v. 3 no. 1) presented results from a 16-question student survey. The question I found most interesting asked whether “more emphasis should be placed on green/sustainable issues in my school’s curriculum.” It drew some of the most positive responses with 65% agreeing or strongly agreeing. Students have a better grasp of the issues they will be facing than do many of our colleagues.

—Harvey Bryan

**Letters [continued]**

Every day with increasingly complicated buildings, here we are marching resolutely forward into the nineteenth century. I conclude our profession does not yet realize it faces a crisis of competency. I am baffled.

—Murray Milne, UCLA

[I, too, am flabbergasted. More detail about the UCLA kiss-off is reported on page 2.–ed.]

Okay, so I’m mortified that we did not catch Alison “Quark” before the February ACSA News went to press, but I was happy that we corrected it in time for printing the actual Annual Meeting program—then I noticed the program listed her presentation as “Loner [sic] Instrument Sets.” Sigh! Editing is treacherous business, no? (See, we do read SBSE News!)

—G. Martin Moeller, Jr., ACSA

[Usually Alison doesn’t cause such trouble. Read on. You’ll see she’s been performing wondrous deeds. I think the pranksters at ACSA used the spell check defaults for proper names—e.g., Molar in lieu of Moeller.–ed.]

Werner Osterhaus found a timely note during the Daylighting Conference in the Globe and Mail (Canada’s national newspaper):

“They said it: ‘The present workplace is inhumane and plays itself out in huge warehouses and basements without natural light, without a view.’—Volker Hartkopf, CMU”

—Alison Kwok, Cornell . . . er . . . Oregon

[Alison, causing trouble again, eh? Volker forgot to mention that they’re refrigerated as well. ASES uses “no light, no view, real cold” as criteria for Solar Conference venues. No irony there!–ed.]

**special pictorial issue**

The September issue of SBSE News will feature tales and illustrations from the Taos Retreat. You all have provided a record-setting, ten-pages of editorial fodder for this issue, and we still haven’t reported on the Retreat. Thanks!

—Bruce Haglund (aka –ed.)
**SBSE PEOPLE**

-The next *JAE* editor will be Barbara Allen. Although overwhelmed by expectations/Barb, read Norman Juster’s Phantom Tollbooth.–ed’s ed., she intends to broaden the range of articles published beyond the traditional history/theory fare the journal has been perceived as favoring. [See the call for participation, p. 6.–ed.]

- Rula Awwad–Rafferty has a new job teaching interior architecture at the University of Idaho! [UI has more SBSEers per capita than any other school. Are we good, or what?–ed.]

- Terri Boake’s promotion to associate professor is official, and she has a one-year appointment as Associate Director of the School of Architecture at Waterloo University.

- After a 3-hour, drug-free labor, supermom Gail Brager gave birth to Carolyn Rebecca, 7 lb.–3.5 oz. and 20 3/4-in. [taller than Gail–ed.], on June 1, 1998, at 6:51 a.m. and was home that night. Carolyn is healthy, content, and [of course–ed.] beautiful.

- Promoted to associate professor and granted tenure are Mary Guzowski at the University of Minnesota and Margot McDonald at Cal Poly SLO.

- The University of New Mexico has awarded Min Kantrowitz the 1996 Distinguished Alumni [Alumna!–ed.] award for her ongoing contributions to the school as an adjunct associate professor and eminent practitioner/researcher in post-occupancy evaluation, psycho-social aspects of design, and research methods.

- J. J. Kim is a design reviewer of the 4-story, 2,000 sq.ft. “Green Office Building,” Korea’s first, by the Korean Institute of Energy Research.

- After 30 years at Kent State Jack Kremers has accepted a position (as professor, no less) at Judson College in Elgin, Illinois, where a new architecture program is being hatched. He will officially start on January 1, 1999. [An informal notice of the vacancy at Kent State appears on page 6.–ed.]

- Alison Kwok is arriving this fall to teach ECS classes at Oregon with Rob Peña, as well as design studio; meanwhile John Reynolds begins his partial retirement (1/3 teaching duties for 5 years). [Somehow I never think of John as retiring or shy.–ed.]

**VITAL SIGNS UPDATE**

**1998 VITAL SIGNS WORKSHOP**

This year’s training is set for July 7–12 and is cosponsored by ACSA. Fifty participants will spend a day conducting brief studies of building performance at the Real Goods Solar Living Center, designed by Sim van der Ryn, in Hopland, California.

Prior to the visit, David Arkin, the project architect, and Tim Kennedy, Real Goods’ assistant project manager, will discuss design strategies. Leaders for the building investigation teams are Walter Grondzik, Alison Kwok, Tang Lee, Marietta Millet, and Mike Utzinger. Look for the findings from the day-long investigations on the web shortly after the training. We’ll have a tool training again this year to familiarize participants with the use of measurement equipment, in particular those instruments found in the Vital Signs Toolkits.

**TOOLKIT LOAN PROGRAM**

In April we awarded toolkits to the following schools and educators for the 1998–99 academic year: Full Year: Judson College, Jack Kremers; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Chris Luebkeman; SUNY Buffalo, Dennis Andrejko/Gary Day; Tuskegee University, Troy McQueen; University of Idaho, Bruce Haglund/Rula Awwad–Rafferty; University of Washington, Marietta Millet. Fall Semester: University of Oklahoma, Nick Harm/Terry Patterson. Spring Semester: Oklahoma State University, Eric Angevine.

Fall/Winter Quarters: University of Oregon, Alison Kwok. Spring Quarter: University of Cincinnati, David Lee Smith.

We will issue another toolkit Request for Proposals next January. If you have questions about the toolkit loan program, please contact Bill Burke or Cris Benton. Remember, you don’t need a background in building evaluation to use one of the kits. Our goal is to make the kits available to as many schools as possible.

**VITAL SIGNS STUDENT COMPETITION**

We received 61 entries for the 1998 competition. Over the summer, the jury will review the submittals prior to meeting in San Francisco on September 11. We’ll announce the winners by September 21 and publish the top entries on the Vital Signs website shortly thereafter.

**CASE STUDY/TEACHING SUPPORT GRANTS**

We’ve just begun publishing results of the grant-supported case studies on the Vital Signs website. Watch for them as they appear this summer and fall. Highlights include student-conducted field investigations of the Aronoff Center (Peter Eisenmann-designed) at the University of Cincinnati; Audubon House in New York City; the passively cooled Logan House in Tampa, FL; the Menil and Twombly Galleries in Houston, TX; and St. Ignatius Chapel in Seattle, WA.

**RENEWED FUNDING FOR VITAL SIGNS**

Soon we’ll submit a proposal to the U.S. DOE to support continuation of Vital Signs activities over the next several years. Support letters would strengthen our proposal. If Vital Signs has aided or influenced your teaching, a letter would be greatly appreciated. I may contact some of you directly to ask for your help.

As always, if you have questions about any Vital Signs activities, contact me. Please note my new e-mail address, <bburke@uclink4.berkeley.edu>, or phone 415–972–5931.

—Bill Burke
To Peer into Peer Review. "Peer reviewers needed!" Thus spake Walter Grondzik. Requests for peer review have been profuse—a sign of the success of this concept. However, more volunteer reviewers are needed. Terri Boake, Steve Dent, and Margot McDonald joined the review team. Contact Walter if you are willing to serve.

Thank you all for your on-going efforts!

-Margot McDonald

[A host of SBSEers took the high road from the Annual Meeting at Albuquerque to Taos Ski Valley for the retreat, but that story will be told in the next issue of SBSE News. Stay tuned.—ed.]

SBSE ON SOPAIPIILLAS [CONTINUED]

NAAB/SBSE. Walter Grondzik reported on the positive contributions SBSE made to the recent reforms of NAAB criteria in the environmental technology area. Thanks to all who contributed!

Plea for PLEA and EAAE. Jeff Cook reported on recent and future meetings of PLEA (Passive and Low Energy Architecture)—Lisbon 1998 and Australia 1999. Consistently, there has been little U.S. involvement in the group. Jeff promised to keep us informed of their future activities and deadlines for submittals. Walter also mentioned the possibilities of collaborating with EAAE, European Association of Architectural Education, an organization that shares many of the same goals as SBSE.

BRE Anyone? Harvey Bryan reminded us of the week-long workshops for architects and educators at the Building Research Establishment in the U.K.; our next opportunity is in 1999. Owen Lewis from Dublin, Ireland, provided a copy of this year’s program. Harvey suggested we combine the BRE workshop with our own tours of naturally ventilated buildings in the U.K. (à la Jeff Cook’s research). Look for more information in SBSE News and a call for participation in early 1999 based on our discussions with BRE. Any ideas for possible funding to send SBSE members on this worthwhile venture?

Como? In his absence, SBSE volunteered Robert Hastings to resubmit the Rockefeller Foundation grant for Bellagio, Italy—a veritable Shangri-la of a retreat center on Lake Como. Robert, are you out there?

Archives and the WWW. The website is still managed primarily by our resident web director (and vice-president) Walter Grondzik at Florida A&M. Since the slide and curriculum libraries are moving towards electronic storage and access, web committee members (Eric Angevine, Terri Boake, Walter Grondzik, Alison Kwok, Margot McDonald, and Marc Schiler) agreed to meet in October 1998 at the Green Building Challenge in Vancouver, BC. They will iron out details of storage, retrieval, and duplication policies and procedures, including the roles of the web and our archives. We will seek input from the membership on these matters via the listserver.

CEUs and You. We formed a CEU committee (Eric Angevine, Walter Grondzik, Murray Milne, and Jim Wasley) who will develop proposals for SBSE-sponsored CEU courses on a regular, on-going basis. The next trial of SBSE/CEU courses will probably occur in Boston in conjunction with the 1999 SBSE Retreat outside Portland, Maine.

To Peer into Peer Review. "Peer reviewers needed!" Thus spake Walter Grondzik. Requests for peer review have been profuse—a sign of the success of this concept. However, more volunteer reviewers are needed. Terri Boake, Steve Dent, and Margot McDonald joined the review team. Contact Walter if you are willing to serve.

Thank you all for your on-going efforts!

-Margot McDonald

SBSE PEOPLE [CONTINUED]

Among the first professional designers certified by NCQLP (National Council on Qualifications for the Lighting Professional) is past SBSE president Russ Leslie of RPI.

An 11-member Cal Poly SLO research team headed by Dan Panetta and Margot McDonald received a Citation from the 1998 Architecture Awards for Architectural Research (formerly P.A. Awards) in Energy and Sustainable Design. A brief reference was published in the April 1998 Architecture.

Fuller Moore’s newest book, Understanding Structures, published by McGraw-Hill, introduces the concepts of structural support in buildings and emphasizes the importance of integrating structure with architectural design.

Welcome to Guillermo De la Paz Perez of Camaguey University, our first Cuban member.

Fatih Rifki of NCSU heedet Harvey Bryan’s call for participation in accreditation: he has been named an NAAB visiting team member for a five-year term beginning fall 1998.

Marvin Rosenman was awarded an ACSA Distinguished Professor Award for “leadership in the field of sustainable design education.”

Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s James Wasley was awarded the ACSA/AIAS New Faculty Teaching Award for bringing “an enthusiastic environmental perspective to the architecture program.”

Aspiring author James Wasley has collaborated with David Rouseau on a new book, Healthy by Design: Building and Remodeling Solutions for Creating Healthy Homes, published by Hartley and Marks—contact James for a discount-priced copy. [Tang Lee will provide a review in the fall SBSE News.—ed.]

John Reynolds collects his Distinguished Professor Award at ACSA.
Beginning Spring ’99, Kent State will have a position open for someone interested in teaching the broad spectrum of environmental technology—two semesters per year. There are typically 60 architecture students each semester plus approximately 30 interior design students in the fall. The brave, successful candidate will be responsible for the whole thing and can be as isolated as desired. An official advertisement for this tenure-track position is being generated through university channels and should be announced in the next several months.

If you are interested in an opportunity for a secure career in the very conservative Midwest with an emphasis on the pragmatic, here’s your chance. I would be happy to assist or answer any questions for anyone interested in applying.  

—Jack Kremers

ACSA ANNUAL MEETING


ACSA doesn’t have any overtly technical, environmental sessions, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t have a presence and influence those history/theory types. There are two sessions in the paper call that might be of interest.

New Paradigms in Education: Digital Multimedia; Curricular Models. New paradigms will have an important influence on the study of architecture. Traditional curricular models founded on the design studio will be complemented by new tools, including digital media and new instructional models founded on distance learning and other off-campus learning experiences. (Hey, Energy Scheming Guys!)

The Conduct of the Profession: New Models for Practice; Digital Multimedia. The conduct of the architectural profession has become increasingly dynamic. Influences as diverse as digital media, new building types (how about sustainable?), and new models of practice (environmental offices?) will have equally dramatic effects on architectural education and on architectural practice. Paper submissions are sought that will investigate the influences transforming practice and, therefore, education.

Submissions of the 3,000- to 4,500-word paper plus 250-word abstract are due Monday, September 14, 1998. Check out the May ACSA News or their web site <http://www.acsa-arch.org> for more complete information. Make it a verbose summer!

ACSA TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE


[The 1999 ARCC Spring Research Conference will be held in conjunction with the Technology Conference with a broader research-based theme and separate call for papers.—ed.]

The opportunities and constraints within which architecture is practiced, experienced, and taught are already in a state of transition, as it is rocked by organizational, legal, and technical change. This conference provides a unique occasion to assess the positive effects of technological change: a mastery of techniques is seen as a privileged way for the architect to lead the building industry once again as it moves into the next century. The chosen theme suggests that transition takes place between the past and the future; this transition must benefit from what is best in the past and use it constructively as the future is “designed.”

Three subthemes are proposed: (1) architectural design and the building industry—a platform to discuss the technical resources of industry and their potential as a palette for the knowledgeable architect, particularly through their influence on building components; (2) invisible technology in design—a platform to elaborate on contemporary design and building processes and how they influence design process for effective building; (3) information technology (IT) and design—a platform to explore how design can digest IT and, conversely, how IT affects the design process.

Also invited: (1) identification and description of pertinent techniques and their transfer to building, (2) research in and development of new materials and techniques, (3) effects of technical resources on the satisfactory use of buildings, (4) relationship between techniques and sustainable development, (5) development of both original and well-tested methods of transmitting technology knowledge to students.

Proposals for hands-on workshops or demonstrations of techniques and methods pertaining to any of the conference subthemes are also welcome. There is also a juried design studio category, “Innovating Technology Integration Projects.”

By January 8, 1999, authors are to submit 5 copies of both a complete draft of the paper (3,000 to 4,500 words) and a concise 250-word abstract. Check the May ACSA News or the web site <http://www.acsa-arch.org> for complete info.

—Tom Beske

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

The JAE editorial board is soliciting articles for a theme issue, “Beyond Expert Culture,” to broaden the perspective of what counts as knowledge and methods in architecture. We are seeking papers and projects that validate “other” ways to represent, think about, and shape the built environment, contesting the privilege of experts. Relevant technology topics might include locally inflected uses of global technologies and nonprofessional perspectives on building construction. We would also welcome work that exposes and/or theorizes the limitations of expert-architect knowledge on technology. The issue will be co-edited by Barbara Allen <b.allen@usl.edu> and Roberta Feldman <rmf@uic.edu>. Prepare submissions according to JAE guidelines (see any May issue) and send them to: Howard Smith, Managing Editor, JAE, School of Architecture, USC, Los Angeles, CA 90089–0291. They should arrive no later than December 1, 1998, and be clearly marked “Beyond Expert Culture Submission.”

—Barbara Allen
CONFERENCES REVIEWS

ARCC/EAEE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

SBSers were active participants in the recent joint ARCC/EAEE Conference, Research in Design Education, in Raleigh, NC. This inaugural joint effort provided a forum to discuss issues associated with research on design education (questions of pedagogy) or research in design education (bringing research topics/findings into design education). Both questions were addressed in the numerous paper sessions as well as the general discussion meetings and plenary session.

The epitome of the success of this cultural exchange came when our eminent Walter Grondzik, co-chair of the event, requested anglophones to explain to the Europeans the meaning of the word “scholarship.” (This word had been offered as an alternative to “research” when referring to the study of architectural design issues.) Constantin Spiridonidis stood and delivered a succinct, but wonderfully erudite, etymology of the word, fociussing on the various shades of meaning attached to the Greek words from which it is composed. He was roundly applauded.

Both ARCC and EAAE concluded that the collaboration was very fruitful, and plans are underway for a repeat performance in the year 2000 (probably in Europe). Proceedings for the 1998 conference will be available from ARCC’s Mary Kihl, <mary.kihl@asu.edu>.

- Lucie Fontain

DAYLIGHTING ‘98

The International Conference on Daylighting Technologies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings was held May 10–13, 1998, in Ottawa, Ontario. I approached this long-awaited conference (when was the last one–8 years ago?) with anticipation of reconnecting with old friends and catching up on international news. Though not broadly publicized, the conference drew strong international participation (presentations by representatives of over 16 countries) due in part to the coincidence of the CIE Symposium on Lighting Quality and the IEA Task 21 meeting.

The conference proved to be a good overview of research, but I was left with the feeling that we haven’t come as far as I had hoped. In his plenary talk, Steve Selkowitz noted, “In 1978 and again in 1986, the author examined the gap between the potential benefits claimed for daylighted buildings and the actual achievements in building practice. The gap remains in 1998.” (Hey, I wonder if it has anything to do with funding cuts in the ‘80s?)

Keeping in mind that there were overlapping sessions so I only attended half of them (oh, how I hate that!), here’s some things that caught my eye:

Computerized Design Tools seemed to be the clear winner for number of papers and technological advancements since the last meeting. Papers covered improvements in integrated design tools (Adeline and LBL’s Building Design Advisor), comparisons of design tools for accuracy and usability, life-cycle analysis tools, and tools for more accurate simulations of lighting controls.

Advanced Fenestration was probably the second largest category. I was especially drawn to the work of the Institute for Light and Building Technology in Germany. Their range of technologies included holographic films and acrylic louvers that redirect incoming sunlight (similar to the Australian laser-cut acrylic product also presented). They showed rudimentary building applications that would benefit from a more integrated approach.

However, what I missed was a stronger participation of the design community and its sensitivities. With the exception of Marietta Millet’s stimulating plenary on “Experiencing Daylight in Architecture,” I saw few of those inspiring, daylighted buildings that make me say, “Oh, yes, this is why I do all those tedious model studies and Lumen Micro runs—this is what it’s really all about!” I missed the balance of right-and left-brain and returned from the conference with my mind active but my heart a little lonely. It’s hard to combine these research and design communities, but I think a stronger mix of the two would add to the richness of our next international gathering.

- Barbara Kenne

SOLAR ‘98 ONE LINERS

Leonard’s take on conference review is to record the sound bites for all of us with short attention span syndrome.—ed.

“... and I will give you that URL at the end of my talk. ...”—80% of all presenters used this hook.

“If cheapness was all that mattered, we would all be driving Yugos.”—Paul Huddy (Leonard’s corollary from Fritof Capra: “If adaptation to environment was all that mattered, we all would be blue-green algae.”

“The typical house is responsible for more CO₂ emissions than the typical car.”—Mark Linsberg

“Active solar technologies cost half what they did 10 years ago and will drop another 50% in the next 10 years.”—and—“[in Latin America] rural villagers spend $3–17 a month on candles, kerosene, and batteries.”—Octavio Meilnik

“Beavers and wasps can build their own homes [but most people can’t]. What’s wrong here?”—and—“Your [grid-connected] house is on life support.”—Mike Reynolds

“Technology must be consumed to be useful to human experience.”—Hofu Wu

“Take a holistic approach; one hook leads to all the others.”—and—“To say that Pueblo Bonita is a climatically-responsive building misses the point entirely. It is a wonderful place that celebrates human experience.”—Muscoe Martin

“Everyone has a self-interest button in sustainability.”—David Johnston

“We should be using biological models anyway.”—John Reynolds

“Land tenure, as a continuing relationship with the earth, will replace ‘land use.’”—Ted Jojola

“How we view nature is a frame for how we live our lives.”—Joel Loveland

— Leonard Bachman
INITIATIVE FOR ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH

ACSA, AIA, and ARCC have established a joint research initiative to advocate as a single voice the varying complexity and breadth of research being conducted by architectural practitioners, academicians, and members of the building industry. Named the Initiative for Architectural Research (IAR), the program has been charged with three primary objectives: (1) serve as a powerful and active advocate for architectural research; (2) serve as a clearinghouse for information about architectural research; and (3) facilitate research efforts that address specific needs of the architectural profession. This program will encourage opportunities for multidisciplinary activity and create stronger links between education and practice. The IAR is a successor to both the AIA/ACSA Council on Architectural Research and the American Institute for Architectural Research.

This January, IAR initiated a web site <http://www.architectureresearch.org> that includes (1) IAR programs and activities information; (2) research news and funding opportunities; (3) calendar of events for building-related conferences and symposia; (4) descriptions of research-based degree programs in architecture; and (5) links to research-related centers, organizations, and funding agencies worldwide. The site will also be the home of A/R: Architecture/Research, a collection of abstracts from ongoing architectural research projects. To assist users, the site will include a search engine that will allow complex inquiries of the A/R database.

Please direct any questions or concerns to Michelle A. Rinehart, IAR Coordinator, c/o ACSCA; 1735 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20006; phone 202–785–2524; fax 202–628–0448; <rinehart@acsa-arch.org>.

—Michelle Rinehart

ARCHITECTURAL LIGHTING MULTIMEDIA INFORMATION SYSTEM

Mohamed Boubekri is currently developing an Architectural Lighting Multimedia Information System (ALMIS). This web-based program <http://www.arch.uiuc.edu/courses/arch242/almis/index.htm> is intended to help students learn more about architectural lighting design and is being funded by the Nuckolls Fund for Lighting Education and by the Educational Technologies Board of the University of Illinois. If you have comments regarding this program or if you have material suitable for inclusion, please send them to Mohamed at <m-boube@uiuc.edu>.

—Mohamed Boubekri

TEACHING WITH ENERGY SCHEMING

G. Z. Brown (University of Oregon), Paul Clark (VPI), Mark DeKay (Washington University) and Lance Lavine (University of Minnesota) have spent several years teaching energy concepts to students using a Macintosh-based energy simulation tool, Energy Scheming. Join our network of instructors sharing Energy Scheming and related teaching techniques.

Energy Scheming helps the student think about energy as an integral part of building design. Since building descriptions are entered graphically, the students can scan their napkin drawings, import scale drawings, or create designs with the simple drawing tools provided. Other building data are entered on clear, visually-informative screens designed for architects, not engineers. Likewise, building performance is represented with easy-to-read graphs that reveal problem areas at a glance. The expert advisor and infrared viewer give the student unprecedented ways to understand building performance and to develop design solutions. Throughout the program the emphasis is on clear, meaningful visual representation helping the student concentrate on the design rather than the computer program.

We are currently providing curriculum material to support lectures, seminars, and studios. We also will provide Energy Scheming software to your students or your university lab.

G. Z. Brown’s instructorless course is a self-paced set of step-by-step exercises that cover the material previously taught in 3-credit Energy Scheming seminars. This web-based course can now be taught anywhere in the world.

Paul Clark’s Energy Scheming materials are used in conjunction with design projects assigned by various professors with diverse teaching styles and interests. Project vehicles include: (1) re-investigation of infamous projects (e.g., Mies van der Rohe’s Farnsworth House and Meier’s Douglas House), (2) analysis of and modifications to case-study buildings, and (3) design explorations (e.g., “A Cabin of One’s Own” and “A Room for Appreciating the Sunrise”).

Mark DeKay is teaching students about energy while they learn to design through a set of linked, weekly exercises for a lecture course. The students evaluate the energy performance of their own studio project or a case-study building using Energy Scheming. Using feedback about the building’s patterns of energy use, students refine the building until the design meets their energy performance targets. A method for comparing the performance of the student’s design to that of a building that barely meets energy codes is also offered. A web database of climate information is available, along with the exercises and a fully worked example project at <http://arch.wustl.edu/escurriculum/index.htm>.

Lance Lavine’s primary objective is to develop a pedagogy for the use of Energy Scheming in design studios. Energy Scheming offers a new opportunity to revisit this age-old problem because it was expressly designed to be an integral part of current design methodology. UM will attempt to test the effectiveness of Energy Scheming in the studio (locus of both the development of design procedures and of the significance of design issues) rather than in support courses. Lance intends to: (1) introduce Energy Scheming to 8 schools of architecture and 16 faculty (2) critique the use of Energy Scheming in studio, and (3) write a workbook, complete with 4 sample exercises, to facilitate studio-based use of Energy Scheming.

* continued next page
RESEARCH NOTES [CONTINUED]

For more information contact G. Z. Brown <gzbrown@oregon.uoregon.edu>, Paul Clark <clark@vt.edu>, Mark DeKay <dekap@arch.wustl.edu>, or Lance Levine <lavin001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.

-N. W. Weiser

EVENTS

LUKEWARM CLIMATES

The ACEEE Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Buildings is scheduled for August 23–28 at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, CA. For conference info e-mail <ace3-conf@ccmail.pnl.gov> or check their website at <http://aceee.org>.

GREEN TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

The initial Earth Technologies Forum will be held in Washington, DC, October 26–28, 1998. For information check out the conference website <http://www.earthforum.com>.

GREEN BUILDING CHALLENGE

Green Building Challenge ’98 will be held in Vancouver, BC, October 26–28, 1998. For information contact Nils Larsson <larsson@greenbuilding.ca>.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY PRACTICE

The European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE) is sponsoring an International Academic Conference, Architecture and Engineering, with a focus on “The Teaching of Architecture for Multidisciplinary Practice.” The conference will be held at the School of Architecture, University of Plymouth, UK, from February 4–6, 1999. Full details on the conference and the submission of abstracts are available at <http://techweb.see.plym.ac.uk/soa/staff/mvoyatzaki/index.htm>.

INTELLIGENT, RESPONSIVE BUILDINGS


UIA BEIJING 1999

The XXth UIA Congress of World Architects will be held in Beijing in 1999. For information contact Treatise Group; Scientific Committee; the XXth UIA Congress Beijing ‘99; c/o Architectural Society of China; 9, Sanlihe Road, Beijing 100835, China; phone 0086–10–68393659; fax 0086–10–68393428.

NEWS FROM THE LRC

Lighting Research Center Director Mark Rea received the William H. Wiley Distinguished Faculty Award from the faculty of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in recognition of outstanding teaching and scholarship.

Six LRC staff recently earned lighting certified (LC) status from the NCQLP: Howard Brandston, Christopher Cuttle, Russell Leslie, Naomi Johnson Miller, Janet Lennox Moyer, and Mark Rea.

New publications from the National Lighting Product Information Program include Guide to Selecting Frequently Switched T8 Fluorescent Lamp-Ballast Systems; Specifier Reports: Photosensors; and Specifier Reports Supplements: Exit Signs.

The LRC’s Landscape Lighting Institute will be held:

- Nov 2–7 (tentative) Morton Arboretum, Chicago. Intro to landscape lighting
- Dec 3–6 Heronswood Garden, Seattle. Intermediate level
- Dec 13–18 Hyatt Regency Resort, Scottsdale. Intermediate level

Contact Outreach Education Manager Dan Frering at 518–276–8716 or <frerid@rpi.edu> for more information.

- Dan Frering

CALL FOR BETA TESTERS

The Pacific Energy Group has been working with LBNL to develop “Desktop Radiance,” a Windows version of Radiance, the light simulation software. The beta release will be available in January 1999, with general release to follow in spring or early summer. Beta testers will be given the software for free in return for their input.

The Desktop Radiance project is currently creating a powerful, user-friendly, daylighting design and analysis software tool based on the Radiance Synthetic Imaging System to address sophisticated architectural designs and produce accurate results. Currently Radiance is only accessible to designers on UNIX workstations and in a limited form through the Adeline interface (DOS platform) with which an experienced user can produce good results. However, technical assistance is limited to the resources of LBNL and documentation is aimed at the UNIX user. A long time is required to become proficient in using Radiance—the only software tool with the potential to interface with other daylight tools in an efficient manner that can produce accurate daylighted images with associated photometric data. This project will create a powerful design and analysis tool with appropriate levels of documentation, technical support, and marketing so the building design community is compelled to create and integrate successful daylighting designs into commercial buildings of all sizes and geometric complexities. This stand-alone tool package will be designed for end users, and the complete software package and its component modules will be available to software developers under favorable licensing terms to encourage widespread adoption and use.

Contact either George Loisos at the Pacific Energy Center, 415–972–5341, <gal0@pge.com> or Marlene Vogelsang at 415–973–7206, <mxv6@pge.com>.

- George Loisos
Another Plot Revealed

Last issue’s mystery plot provided an accounting of temperature at a showerhead in a residence shared by several people. Each individual peak represents one hot shower—an event in which the showerhead warms rapidly at the beginning of the shower and cools slowly (asymptotically) after the shower is turned off, a process that takes 2½ hours. Several patterns were evident in the graph. At least 12 showers were evident, though there were probably more due to back-to-back showering. Several shower events lasted a half hour or so. Many of the days began with a shower between 6:45 a.m. and 7:15 a.m. except the black triangle day—perhaps on a weekend with the first shower at 9:30 a.m.. A second group of weekday showers was clustered around 9:00 a.m.. While most showers had a peak showerhead temperature of 105–110°F, there were a couple of showers at 120°F. Some like it hot! [No space for a mystery plot this time. I’m disappointed.—ed.]

—Cris Benton

Butt wait! You haven’t seen the end of the SBSE adventures in New Mexico. There’ll be a special Retreat ’98 pictorial issue of SBSE News.