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news 

aE in action

Column

by Thijs Asselbergs

Who makes the building of the future!

What influence does the architect have in the future? Who is the master builder of the future and is the profession definitely going towards being an architectural stylist employed by the creative or construction industry?

And if the architect no longer has a dominant position, is he therefore sliding into ‘the middle of the road’: making buildings and environments with a dull, mediocre quality, mostly only obliging the feeble wishes of consumers, and where experimentation and progress can no longer be found as recognizable design themes.

Is the architect still the most suitable person to firstly bear the responsibility? There is a tendency to see the architectural component as a part that you can manage. The position of the Dutch architect has been eroded in recent decades and has suffered even more serious blows as a result of the recent crisis.

That brings me to the question: Who makes the building of the future? The architect, the real estate owner or the society by means of participation? Who has final responsibility?

There is hope. Nowadays, you see young, mostly newly graduated architects designing and producing their own buildings or building components through trial and error as their own boss. A very interesting trend in which the architect appropriates his or her traditional core task in essence and experiments with new methods and technologies.

At the same time, the engineering firms seem to be experiencing better times again and there is an opportunity for architects as seasoned designers to enclose themselves in an environment of strong engineers. And that is what we need to arrive at, a good architecture: integral design and engineering.

Well-educated and professionally experienced architects must be the pioneers of good buildings and urban structures, which also have an added value from a cultural perspective. This must be stimulated. The complexity of the assignments is enormous. Large architectural questions relating to urban and landscape environments are waiting for us, in which it is important that these can be taken on by the right talents with the right attitude.

These are new times, and they are about new content and search for innovation. Let’s create new value to make progress!

Please take a look at our intesture goals in this journal and join us in renewing the assignment.

Green Transformable Buildings

aE studio at the Kick-off Symposium at IBA Parkstad

From the 22nd until 24th of April a group of 15 representatives of the aE graduation studio went to IBA Parkstad Limburg in order to get inspired and learn about the region. The excursion led the students past the Kick-off Symposium on Green Transformable Buildings, the church of Chevermont which functions as a temporary working house, several IBA ‘candidate’ projects and the Glaspaleis in Heerlen, followed by a visit to the Emscher Park in Germany, a former mining place that is transformed in an inspiring way. After all we could speak of a successful journey!

Last summer, Laura Vester and Georges Taminiau were the first two students of the IBA studio to finish their design successfully (see page G55). The students of studio 14 have just started their designs, based on their own researches. The aE for IBA Parkstad group will be enriched with the concepts of a few more students from studio 15. Together they will visit the IBA Parkstad region again at the start of this years’ November, where an exchange of ideas and feedback will take place, most likely in the new working house which is the water tower of the town Schimmert. Also the C-mine in Genk, Belgium, will be visited to get inspired by all the possibilities of such an interesting project and location.

Students who have a finished graduation project or a finished concept have the possibility of submitting their designs or ideas in the second open call, which will be in March 2016. Who knows what interesting consequences that might have for the designs of the aE for IBA

Bucky Lab - Building Weeks

text Marcel Bilow

One of the highlights of the Bucky Lab seminars are for sure the building weeks. In the winter we are off campus in an industrial warehouse, but in the summer we set up camp in a tent. This time we weren’t able to use our normal space behind the maquettehal due to renovation activities of the building. We found a new spot on the west terrain and placed the tent over there. The weather was mixed, but we managed to finish most of the projects in time and the cardboard was even visible for a couple of more days.
Stuiflab @ Oerol Festival 2015
a collaboration between Architectural Engineering and Rijkswaterstaat

text Annebregje Snijders
Walking from beach bar ‘De Branding’ on Terschelling to the temporary pavilion it becomes immediately visible where the ‘Stuiflab’ is about. The 12 different beach houses of scaffolding tubes and curtains all react differently to the wind and the sand. Some of these ‘beach houses’ cause big holes in the dunes, before others arise huge sand piles. And they are only standing there for one week.

In the pavilion a couple of students from the graduation studio of Architectural Engineering and MSc1 Bucky Lab give explanations about their research to alternative ways to build at the coast line. These researches were conducted in different themes: smart ways of using materials, easy to transport and demountable homes, self-sufficiency, integration and connection to the characteristics of the dunescape and of course aerodynamics.

Bandung
working with students from Institut Teknologi Bandung

Two Home at Work excursions have been organised to Bandung Indonesia with the Intecture AE Studio. The first group visited Bandung in November 2014 and the second group followed in May 2015. During the excursion, students have conducted field research for their technical research paper within industrial kampungs surrounding the textile and garment factories in Cigondewah, a heavily polluted industrial district at the southern periphery of Bandung. In addition AE students have also investigated the spatial, socio-economic and ecological character of this context. They exchanged knowledge and ideas with Indonesian students of the Built Environment Analysis Class of Institut Teknologi Bandung. This research group also contributed to the Home at Work assignment with a typological study of workers’ housing and research into the metabolism of the industrial live-work environment and the potential circularity of resources, like water, energy and waste materials.

Learning from Lowlands
a collaboration with nederlandwordtanders

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text Mo Smit

On the 19th of March Architectural Engineering organised the annual aE-day. This year make-experts, aE-alumni and aE-graduates discussed the making of architecture. Their short presentations led to a vivid discussion, moderated by Thijs Asselbergs and make-expert Mick Eekhout, with the public that filled the orange tribune of the Oostserre of our faculty.

aE Day 2016 : 15 March 2016

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text Heleen van Russen Groen

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text Tjalling Homans

Last August AE Studio organized, in cooperation with Nederlandwordtanders, the expedition ‘Learning from Lowlands’. Following the analogy of the book ‘Learning from Las Vegas’, a group of 10 students and 10 professionals with diverse professional backgrounds tried to frame the spatial lessons one could learn from the temporary city of Lowlands. During the field research at the festival, the mechanisms shown on Lowlands were recorded and afterwards they were translated into different prototypes for the (temporary) city. The outcome will be discussed in a public ‘Live meeting’ with Rijksbouwmeester Floris Alkemade and Lowlands-director Eric van Eerdenburgin our faculty.

aE Day 2016 : 15 March 2016
Design and Engineering
the BSc2 ON2-assignment

text: Nellie Schut

For project ON2 first year students design a rowing clubhouse at the location of an existing slot of ‘de Omval’. As a final project of the first year, it focuses both on sustainability with the ultimate goal to design a passive climate and engineer a functioning construction, materialization and a comfortable climate of the spaces needed for the function of a clubhouse.

‘De Omval’ is located along the Amstel River, at a very inspiring location. Across the water there is Berlage’s plan-Zuid, along the water you have the Amstel quarter with its offices and behind the location there is a new development and the Bijlmer Neighborhood.

During the project students get to work with experts on climate design, construction engineers and building construction engineers. These teachers indicate the special technical issues, which gives the student the task to make choices reckoning with these issues and incorporate them into their design.

From the very first week scale models get great attention. From 1:1000 for connection to the urban context until 1:100 and even 1:20 for spatial, structural and material design, especially in the façade area.

Everything has to be presented in both these models and 2D manual and digital drawings.

Archineering
Minor

text: Roel van de Pas

The minor Archineering focuses on two main issues: technology as an essential part of any design product and making explicit the design process. Just like an athlete can train to become a master, a designer can train the design process as well. By training designing, engineering and prototyping in a number of short exercises (like the design of a digital fabricated chair) and explicitly studying and reflecting on the design process, more insight in the personal design process will be acquired.

Some of the Archineering design projects focus on architectural design & engineering, involving construction, climate and materialization, other assignments are focussing on industrial design, digital manufacturing and aerospace. This very mixed program results in a new and flexible personal toolbox and will be an inspiring basis for all future design projects! Archineering will learn you to
- foster design results, in which the relationship between design and technology is a key theme;
- do research and learn about the material aspects in the design of construction, climate design and detailing;
- translate a project very quickly and concisely in a physical and functional design, integrated into the urban and socio-cultural context by doing many experiments;
- formulate a guiding theme and to enrich and strengthen this (idea or concept) through technical engineering;
- increase your “frame of reference” and design language by using sketches, diagrams, drawings and (sketch-)models.

Do you want to delve more into the materialization and engineering of your plans while improving your design process? Then this minor is for you!

Junior TU
Young Architectural Engineers

text: Bob van Vliet

In januari 2016, BK city will host a group of high school students for the Digitally Designed Chairs program (DiDe Chairs). The course is part of the Junior TU Delft program, which offers a range of courses for ambitious, technologically minded students, who take 5 days off from their regular school activities to experience what it might be like to come and study in Delft.

The high school students will be designing chairs for production in CNC milled plywood. The exercise is based on an assignment developed for the Archineering minor in cooperation with prof. Thijs Asselbergs and Pieter Stoutjesdijk. The students will learn the basics of design, construction, ergonomics and CAD modelling, and they will produce laser cut scale models of their designs.

The goal of the DiDe Chairs project is not just to offer a group of high schoolers interested in design and technology a first look at Architectural Engineering, but also to further explore the possibilities of digital fabrication technologies.
GS Graduation Studio
MSc3 & MSc4 Intecture aE Studio

Eric Geboers
Emilie van Wijnbergen
Thom Schreuder
Laura Vester
Jan Portheine
Tswana Gul
Muhammed Ulusoy
Daan Meeder
Frederick Ulijn
Nadia Remmerswaal

Salt city (page GS03)
Earthquake architecture (page GS11)
Ruin prothesis (page GS05)
Life-span greenhouse (page GS05)
Disposable housing (page GS07)
Refugee city (page GS02)
Design with nature (page GS06)
DIY flexible infills (page GS03)
Self-supporting dunehouse (page GS06)
Social digital engineering (page GS09)
themes within aE Studio

MAKE

Make will be your topic if you are interested in Production Technologies, the use or even the development of a new material or maybe a well known material in a new application. While the Maker Movement is known for its tinkering and experimenting to design and build mostly personal gadgets, to hack electronics or to make something in a smaller scale, we would like to expand this new spirit into an architectonic scale.

How do we change the future of our environment, our homes and our cities by using technologies that are broadly available, open source and create a bottom up approach towards a better and more sustainable future?

Make is for all of you who think about starting a business with a small intervention that will have an impact on architectural scale. Do you think about a flat pack building system that can conquer the topic of abandoned office stock, shelters out of recycled material or a new gardening system that changes our walls into green gardens - Make is for you. We love to see prototypes, models and experiments that can change architecture as we know it till now.

STOCK

If you feel connected to start your graduation project from the perspective of the existing, STOCK is a topic for you. By looking carefully to what is already there, you can reveal your thoughts about the question how to intervene.

Ideas for interventions can be of a wide range of varieties: the upgrade of existing housing stock to measure up to our comfort needs; subtle or crazy ideas for the vacancy problems of former office buildings or productdevelopment of interiors or facades; the interventions could differ from the scale of a product, to the scale of a building to the urban scale. It can lead to a strategy, it can lead to a design.

Stock is about the potential of the existing by looking differently to what is already there, by making use of a technical fascination, by studying the question behind the question, in relation to current or future needs.

This year we offer a work-together with the RMIT studio as well, to focus besides the vacancy problems and needs also on the cultural aspects of the stock: on heritage ready for re-use.

FLOW

Flow is the topic for those of you who see buildings as structures interwoven with their wider system. Those of you who know or suspect that sustainability claims cannot be made without integrating the factors Time and Context.

Buildings provide the setting for human activity. Human activity, by definition, is dynamic i.e. in motion, and contexts of human activity change. If sustainable performance is the aim, then buildings – and their built environment – need to facilitate and anticipate this motion.

Sustainable performance of buildings has everything to do with flows. Flows of people and flows of the resources needed to keep these people healthy, happy and comfortable.

If you want to enable building materials to flow circularly rather than linearly, then this is your topic. You can stand on the shoulders of illustrious predecessors and work on interventions that render architecture more adaptable. Think of product – and process – design innovations for better disassembly and recycling.

And if you are interested in other flows than building materials alone – energy, water, food, waste – then this topic provides a platform to develop innovative systems that support a Circular Economy. Think for example of Building Integrated Greenhouses.

THE REFUGEE CITY

by Twana Gul

Evaporated opportunities, poor security and the downgrade of economies in the MENA Region has been manifested thanks to the so called Arab Spring and the Islamic State group, which has pushed people to seek refuge in refugee camps and, lately, the West.

By using the Refugee City Model we can generate a novel sustainable ecosystem in the hosting countries, for instance the KRG (Kurdistan Regional Government). With the use of the local materials (mud and reed) and a tailor-made urban + architectural strategy, we can reestablish a safe-zone environment with job opportunities, secure building blocks, climate resistance, and more importantly long-term prospects.

The main objective of the refugee city is to tackle the refugee issue at the source and provide the refugees the tools and knowledge to reset life.
**SAND BUILDING IN THE ARABIAN DESERT**

by Anne Schakel

Surviving in the hot-arid climate of Saudi-Arabia requires a special attitude towards your surroundings. Over decades, Bedouin people were able to live in these hard circumstances in a sustainable and effective way. Their vernacular architecture teaches us to use local materials, passive climate solutions and shows the rich heritage of the Arabian culture. Unfortunately nowadays, these beautiful principles are not used anymore and replaced by less sustainable solutions.

**DIY FLEXIBLE INFILLS**

by Daan Meeder

There are often vacant old industrial buildings to be found near city centers within the Netherlands. Artists regularly use these buildings, because of a shortage of affordable and suitable atelier space. These buildings offer a grand and affordable space, which they can make their own. This system support this concept of making ones own space within these buildings and is able to grow and shrink in the x, y and z axes on a grid of 1200 x 1200 x 1200 mm. CNC-routing is used so the artists can cut out all external parties by being able to buy the materials, make the parts and assemble the structure by them selves.

**SALT CITY**

by Eric Geboers

This project is a biomimetic attempt to utilize locally available resources in order to create a scalable solution to combat desertification that is able to grow organically whilst providing a valuable addition to the existing ecosystem. The premise is to pump up seawater to arid areas and use the sun’s energy to distill the valuable fresh water in greenhouses. The resulting salt is then turned into a building material and used for construction, creating a ‘closed ecosystem’ with no waste.
Until 2020, IBA Parkstad will function as a laboratory: An engine for groundbreaking building projects, remarkable exhibitions and innovative plans. They will put Parkstad on the world map and help to shape Parkstad's future. aE/intecture sees opportunities and joins!

What is IBA?
IBA is an abbreviation for: Internationale Bau-Austellung. It’s a German phenomenon which contributes to the improvement of a city or region. It is a creative approach with a proven economic boost. And a physical change in the area as tangible. And moreover: a cultural shift in thinking and working and appreciation for the area. A renewed pride that invites to invest.

Parkstad Limburg
Parkstad is an administrative partnership between the eight municipalities Brunssum, Heerlen, Kerkrade, Landgraaf, Nuth, Onderbanken, Simpelveld and Voerendaal. An area covering 210 km² in the formerly eastern mining area in the southeast of Limburg. It has therefore the size of Amsterdam, but only has 255,000 inhabitants. Through its hilly structure, the area has a wide range of views. A varied landscape with different cores, alternated by green valleys. With many places for relaxation and recreation.

But it is also an area with high vacancy rates. Where changing demographics and shrinkage are serious assignments. Where the question of identity manifests itself by the smeared layer of the mining history. Where little reminds of the times of economic prosperity. It is therefore also a quest for a new economic engine.

Shrinkage as opportunity
The arrival of the construction exhibition in the region offers the potential, next to the administrative cooperation, to make a stand for the physically spatial. And can therefore bring coherence to area. Can shrinkage also be used as an opportunity? And how can the need to reform energy production and energy consumption contribute to this? What is the role of material usage? And will this lead to new forms in architecture?

TOWARDS IBA PARKSTAD 2020

Led by Annebregje Snijders, aE/intecture is working on innovative interventions for "Parkland", a framework for modularity Parkstad that depicts how - based on the uniqueness of the place, in relation to current necessities and desires - Parkstad can transform into coherent and renewed landscape. Themes that will be discussed are the urban metabolism, creating a positive business climate and renewed identity by making old and new artifacts, mutual connection and new ways of usage.

aE/intecture meets IBA academy
The student projects’ results are shared with the IBA organisation. Twice a year aE/intecture organises an excursion to IBA Parkstad where in workhouses the floor will be given to students where they present and where they can reflect with other professionals. Besides TU Delft, RWTH Aachen, TU Hasselt, UT Wente and TU Eindhoven are connected.

1 www.iba-parkstad.nl
2 www.parkstad-limburg.nl
RUIN PROSTHESIS
by Thom Schreuder

Combining digital fabrication with ruined structures is a perfect match. Fabricating by computer driven machines makes irregular and complex forms possible and easy to produce. The ruin provides the highly complex and delicate context that should be treated with care and precision. By using 3D scanning it is possible to relate the digital and the existing directly to one another.

In my graduation project these techniques will be put to the test on the case of the ruin of castle Schaesberg. Inspiration drawn from both the castle's history and its present eroded forms combined to design a 'prosthetic' extension to the castle ruin to house a restaurant, exposition floor and atelier. The projects aim is to show how thin the line that separates history from the present can be.

LIFE-SPAN GREENHOUSE
by Laura Vester

The Dutch population is aging. These elderly people are often lonely, many of them even hire others to keep them company. Research also shows how elderly spent up 95% of their time indoors, mainly because of the weather. My graduation design offers a solution that brings active elderly together and lowers the threshold for them to go outside. Besides having their private apartment, cohousing offers them communal rooms for their hobbies and get-togethers. The greenhouse that is placed over a large part of the building creates a sustainable microclimate that makes the communal garden, with all its different types of spaces, usable throughout the entire year.

VILLA RUSTICA SUBMERSIO
by Georges Taminiau

Building in a shrinking area at the start of the grey wave asks for a different approach. New dwellings will cause future vacancy. So, what if architecture is made to disappear? The project designed gives answers to the question, a fully biodegradable building. From foundation to ridge, all to become what was once was, nothing or everything.

How to design with transience of life? Villa rustica submersio, the sinking of a rural village, intertwining architecture and time.
Coastal Living

by Muhammed Ulusoy

The sandy dunes at the Dutch coastal areas are characterized as an aeolian landscape and are essential for the complex water safety systems of the Dutch lowlands. The naturally formed dunes act as a soft barrier with a cyclical process of formation and deformation. Building in the sandy dunes and beaches poses a threat as this may imbalance the naturally occurring cyclical healing process of the dunes. Building at these fragile locations demands meticulous planning and programming of the built environment, with some level of temporality at the core of the assignment.

locations

Our coast inspires. It is a constantly changing landscape. Not a single day is the same. Dominated by wind, sand and salt. It is a public landscape where the demand for recreational facilities is increasing rapidly.

Rijkswaterstaat

This increase in demand faces Rijkswaterstaat and the Water Boards with a challenge. For example, the beach structures and buildings hinder the drifting of sand which is extremely important for keeping the dunes strong. Therefore Rijkswaterstaat has asked the aE/intecture studio students to develop new ideas and designs of dune-friendly building.

Oerol festival 2015, a collaboration between aE/intecture studio and Buckylab

During the Oerol festival on Terschelling, the student’s designs were displayed in a pavilion, specifically designed by the TU Delft for this occasion. At this exhibition, four inspirational examples of beach houses designed by graduates of aE/intecture were shown. Students from Bucky Lab have displayed new innovative building component solutions of different characters.

Drift design

Moreover, TU Delft in cooperation with Rijkswaterstaat developed the “Stuiflab”, a 300 meter long test setup 1:1 to measure the drifting sand. The long ranges and volumes show that appearance within the landscape is an important theme as well. Can this go hand in hand with the natural habitat and can coastal pollution be avoided?

Coastal Living

We are used to build on the coast like we build in the city. But what happens when we begin to think in terms of dynamics. Impermanence. Adaptability. Self-sufficiency. Can product development lead to a breakthrough in new typologies of beach development? Are we going to work with new materials, or maybe choose for a high degree of flexibility and temporality? To be continued...

SELF-SUPPORTING DUNE HOUSE

by Frederick Ulijn

How to design a new temporary, recreational beach house typology in the coastal area of the Netherlands? The dune area is a protected area in the Netherlands because of its fauna and flora, natural water treatment and most important to protect the land from the sea. This raises the research question “How can I design a new typology for a beach houses located in the dunes area of the Netherlands?”

DESIGN WITH NATURE

by Muhammed Ulusoy

The sandy dunes at the Dutch coastal areas are characterized as an aeolian landscape and are essential for the complex water safety systems of the Dutch lowlands. The naturally formed dunes act as a soft barrier with a cyclical process of formation and deformation. Building in the sandy dunes and beaches poses a threat as this may imbalance the naturally occurring cyclical healing process of the dunes. Building at these fragile locations demands meticulous planning and programming of the built environment, with some level of temporality at the core of the assignment.
The cardboard beach house consist of different types of cardboard supported by a wooden construction. The house can be build up quickly by users, rented by users and deconstructed by users. Why is this a good idea? Because the house is made of cardboard it is easy to transport, lightweight and cheap. Parts can be replaced after a season and recycled. All parts are easy to lift by two persons and no big tools are needed.

This design is about the theme Kinetic Design. A kinetic design can adapt to the changing needs, what makes it more durable. A kinetic design can have 4 different purposes: spatial optimisation; multifunctional design; contextual adaptability and mobility. This could be achieved by making a design with 3 different types: embedded kinetic structure, dynamic kinetic structure and deployable kinetic structure.
The metropolitan area of Bandung is known as Indonesia's textile and fashion hub. This extensive urban region, with over 7 million inhabitants, is known for its creative urban communities and a thriving textile and garment manufacturing culture. Next to fashionista's and weekend shoppers Bandung also welcomes masses of factory workers, flocking the city on the tides of the local and global textile market.

Factory workers mostly live in peri-urban industrial kampungs. Under influence of global mass production and the corresponding arrival of large scale factories these originally rural villages have rapidly transformed into unplanned and heavily polluted factory towns.

Because of its rural past and agricultural remnants, its entrepreneurial local community and its intrinsic connection with the global economy, the industrial kampung nevertheless has a great potential to be a healthy and self-sufficient live-work environment for future generations.

To make the regeneration of the industrial live-work environment come true, the textile and garment producing region of Bandung will be launched as the Home at Work Living Lab. Partnerships between communities, governments, global fashion brands, local businesses, knowledge institutes and consultants & designers are enabled to cooperatively develop and implement new products, projects, services and value models in a realistic context.

The Intecture AE Studio will take part in the Home at Work Living Lab. Within this context students can define their own graduation assignment and technical fascination related to the bigger ambition to put Bandung on the map as most sustainable and creative fashion producing region in the world. Dealing with topics such as self-sufficient worker housing, building with local materials, industrial metabolism, and waste up-cycling using circular economy principles, the studio aims to deliver cohesive strategies that invigorate industrial kampung life through innovative interventions.

The need for a strategy in the inclusion of the textile waste stream became apparent once on site, the kampong community of Cigondewah, Indonesia, makes a living out of creating the waste (i.e. working for the factory) or dealing with the waste at home (i.e. independent seamstresses and tailors using non-conforming parts). To find a solution to the given problem I began researching ways in which a big bulk of this waste could become part of the building structures of the kampong as a building block. In dealing with the abundant resource that is the textile waste, I submerged myself in creating a technique suitable for the kampong in which the waste stream could be retrofitted to build space, other than block it.

Bamboo, 'the building material of the future', has a lot of potential as a constructive building material. Nevertheless it is being refused by kampung residents due to a lack of knowledge and distrust about the material. The goal of this project is to reintroduce bamboo within the kampong in a way that it becomes a valuable building material. Besides, local craftsmanship should be stimulated in order to allow safe, low-cost and self-built housing.
The Global Health Organization estimates that in 2050 almost 75% of the world population will be living in cities. The biggest urban growth will take place in ‘informally build’ parts of the city, often known as slums. Municipalities can no longer govern this enormous growth so city inhabitants start constructing their own living quarters. Sufficient building knowledge is often lacking and dangerous situations occur in densely populated areas caused by earthquakes and yearly flooding.

Tra-Digital Hybrids (TDH) is a concrete formwork-system based on CNC-milling technology. It enables self-construction in informal areas to build up safe, incremental housing up to four stories high. Ordinary formwork systems are complex in use, too expensive for the low- to mid-low income group and only suited to one shape of building plot. The TDH-system is not only cheaper and easier in use, it can be customized to all shapes of building-plots and enables safe construction up to four stories high.
locations Beyond the Current

increasing the energy efficiency of the existing housing stock

text Tjalling Homans

From 2020 on, all newly built buildings in the Netherlands have to be energy neutral. However, every year, about 1% of the building stock in the Netherlands is refreshed. Therefore Beyond the current focuses on a bigger challenge: the existing housing stock.

Most deep renovation designs of dwellings however, focus on the relatively easy part of the housing stock: (early) post-war row housing. While a major challenge remains to generate designs for more complicated housing estates such as pre-war housing and apartment blocks, particularly concentrated in the larger cities.

In our graduation studio we aim to generate design solutions for deep renovation of representative parts of the more complicated housing stock to increase its energy efficiency as well as architectural quality.

The chosen context for Beyond the Current is Amsterdam-West with a specific focus on two Modern housing complexes. One is the monumental complex of ‘Koningsvrouwen van Landlust, designed by Merkelbach. The other project is a series of post-war housing blocks built in the industrial Airey system that is just saved from the wrecking ball.

AE Studio’s ‘Beyond the current’ is a joint venture with Heritage & Architecture Studio. All students work on individual projects but share knowledge in diverse group meetings.
The Seismic Studio the changing environment in Groningen, where earthquakes caused by the extraction of natural gas are a new reality. The main problem of the studio is to return confidence in the build environment to the inhabitants using architectural tools.

Architectural innovation is a result of new materials and tools, new requirements and new environments, combined with the insights of a good architect. In Groningen the environment has changed, the existing architecture is no longer an answer to present day circumstances. The studio is thus looking for a new architecture for Groningen.

This can be done in many ways, maybe traditional materials can be used in a new way which deals with earthquakes, or maybe we need to build in a different material. A different possibility is to make temporary structures as it is expected the earthquakes will not last for more than 50 years.

The recent earthquakes in Groningen have shocked the community: earthquakes, a serious threat in the Netherlands? A predominant part of the building stock is built with unreinforced masonry, which performs poorly during earthquakes. The building community is challenged to develop a shock-proof approach and architectural language for new buildings. Earthquake engineering might seem to be a very technical subject; however these seismic events will strongly influence the architecture of the region.

Research showed that building objectives and design strategies (such as irregular plans) are often conflicting with structural earthquake design principles. In order to prevent subordinating aspects such as aesthetics and function, I have set up a design strategy (objective-conflict-solution) to make reasonable tradeoffs during design decisions. The research was used to make a design for the public interface for the Governmental Department for earthquakes. The design has resulted in an exciting building, made shockproof by all kinds of innovative earthquake principles.
the architect in practice

AWARDS FOR AE GRADUATES

Sol van Kempen, Nadia Remmerswaal and Jan Portheine are nominated for the ASN Bank: Wereldprijs - for the world of tomorrow.

Joël Klerkx won the second price for the studentenstaalprijs.

Eric Geboers is one of the distinguished award winners of the Singapore Challenge - the science of future cities.

Cederick Ingen-Housz is nominated for the NRP masterprijs - new ideas for transformation and renovation.

Eric Geboers is one of the finalists of the Challenge Stad van de Toekomst.

AE ALUMNI

ERIC GEOBERS, founder of the Salt Project, is currently participating in the ‘Urban Accelerator’ as one of the winners of the Challenge de Stad competition. Eric is now looking to change the world through sustainable innovation, starting with the development of his first 1:1 salt project in the urban accelerator. Eric also won the distinguished award at the Singapore Science of Future Cities competition (see photo above), and is nominated for the Archiprix. The Salt Project is a biomimetic attempt to create architecture using seawater in the desert.

SOL VAN KEMPEN, founder of Sustainer Homes, just realized his first prototype home. The Sustainer Home uses solar panels, windmills, and rainwater collection to produce all its own energy and water. The resulting design is completely off the grid.

ANNE SChAKEL works as a junior architect at cepezed. She is currently working on an urban development in Aalst, Belgium, containing a parking, residential building and cinema.

photo by Leon van Woerkom

text Thijs Asselbergs

De Nieuwe Architect (The New Architect, DNA) is an investigation of the position of the architect in this transformative time. What is the role of the architect within society and the building process? What is his position? To whom belongs the authorship? What expertise does he (still) require today? Are you a generalist or a specialist? These are all examples of challenges that DNA questions.

DNA is a platform supervised by Thijs Asselbergs and Alijd van Doorn, with committed students and fellows from the Faculty of Architecture at TU Delft. DNA promotes associations with organizations that want to serve and strengthen the general interest of the architect.
**Bucky Lab**

MSc 1

(text Marcel Bilow)

We started the new Bucky Lab MSc1 course a couple of years ago in its new set up. Marcel Bilow, assistant professor and formally known as Dr. Bucky Lab developed the idea of a mobile workshop to solve the problems that occurred after the demolition of the old building by putting a set of tools in boxes and open the workshop in a tent on the campus.

The idea was well accepted and the ongoing trend having more than 70 students in the course is quite a fact that the Bucky Lab is more prominent and liked from a wide group of students.

It's no wonder that our Dr. Bucky Lab also got this years title as “docent of the year” which not only underlines his passion to teach how to develop and build innovative prototypes but also brings the whole course on the top of the best courses within our faculty. According to Stylos who asked for the best docent this year, it seems that the whole course and alumni of the course voted for Marcel and indirectly also for the course itself.

The course collaborated with several associations and research partners like RWS to develop new technologies how to build on the dutch coast. Next to this the students won several prizes within the last years on national and international competitions.

This winter semester we will work on the topic of acoustics in cooperation with the chair of Arjan van Timmeren. We will try to find a way to improve his shared office space with new and appealing solutions to reduce the noise level and increase the acoustic comfort. Due to the fact that some elements will be placed in the middle of the room but also within the window openings, daylight will be a topic also.

If you like to know more about the course, its mobile workshop or the projects from former semesters follow www.buckylab.nl or join the Bucky Lab facebook group.

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**Delft Seminars on Building Technology**

(text Bas Gremmen)

Imagine you have a beautiful façade in mind you want to make. Or you are fascinated by materials. Or you are convinced that we should build at least energy neutral – or even better – buildings that produce energy.

But now you have to design it. You have to have the knowledge and the skills to make your idea concrete. In the way you want it to be. In fact, better than that; better than the first – often vague – idea and not only the idea, but a concrete, buildable design. We want you to experience what a design needs to make you co-producers enthusiastic about the feasibility of your project. This is what the course ‘Delft Seminars on Building Technology’ is about.

**Design task**

Architecture is an important part designing technical aspects. ‘Delft seminars on building technology’ is about architecture from the perspective of technical building design.

The design task at hand is a new (technical) design proposal for an existing building. It is about integration of structural elements, facade construction and climate design in one design. Of course the architectural quality can only be guaranteed in an integral design.

The next Extreme, which starts in November, will be dealing with earthquakes on Iceland. Students will be dealing with a spectacular landscape on a coastal location with some of the most extreme earthquakes on our planet. Of course the architectural quality can only be guaranteed in an integral design.
During the last century the world has seen impressive innovations. Strange to see that the way our buildings are build did not change that much. While most of the goods around us are made with highly advanced fully automated production technologies, the results on the building site are still determined by the sharpness of the pencil.

Of course, also the building industry has its pioneers; we read about 3D printed houses, constructions made with robots and architects proudly telling that not a single piece of the entire facade is made out of the same shaped part. But these are expensive prototypes, experiments, often challenging and demanding projects only feasible if millions of visitors come and look and bring the economy in full swing.

In the end, we don’t buy cars or furniture because they are built by robots, but we know we are able to afford them due to this fact. Therefore, in this research project expensive digital production technologies are not used to make even more expensive architecture, but to provide an economic and ecological advantage for the building sector.

In fact a platform will be built literally step-by-step: to investigate and test digital production technologies like CNC milled wood connections on 1:1 scale, but also a platform in its wider meaning to investigate the effects and influences of file to factory production, to explore the potential in the field of sustainability, material use, logistics and the interaction of stakeholders within the chain of the building process.

The method of using CNC milled plywood sheets with integrated connections for full scale building construction was invented by Larry Sass’s (MIT) in Cambridge ten years ago. Pieter Stoutjesdijk (TU Delft) developed this principle further, developing disassembleable integrated building components and making optimal use of the third axis on a CNC router to create 2,5D connections.

CNC milling technologies deliver accurate precision which allows airtight construction details, an essential key factor to create low energy consuming buildings with a high comfort. This accuracy combined with integrated connections makes easy and fast (pre)assembly possible. CNC milling technologies can handle a variety of sheet goods, the PD lab will be produced out of environmental friendly plywood and natural fiber based sheets which comes from waste cycles. The use of these materials will reduce the embodied energy. While the use of standardized building components accepts the reuse of the components like Lego blocks, the building itself allows a high amount of flexibility over time. Combined with specific custom building components where necessary allows mass-customization; supported through the direct file-to-factory process.

The digital process offers the advantages of modularity, predictability and precision which will be key features on the building site. The digital engineering phase allows a constant overview of material flows, energy consumption, production time and embodied energy. Former problem solving on site will be reduced by the control of the digital design beforehand in close collaboration within the design team, which has great potential to reduce failure costs.

The goals of the team are clear but also demanding. It’s not about following a trend, or the fulfillment of an architect’s dream. The current situation on the market asks for smart use of technology and material, which adds up together higher than the sum of its parts. Through the PD lab we try to investigate if digitally fabricated building systems can contribute to provide affordable, flexible, low energy consumption buildings that respond to our demanding challenge towards an energy neutral future.

Team: Tillmann Klein; Thijs Asselbergs; Marcel Bilow; Pieter Stoutjesdijk (TU Delft), Jos Lichtenberg (TU Eindhoven)
MaCuBs
Mass Customized Building Systems

The 20th century knows many examples of failed experiments to integrate the mass-production potential of the First Industrial Revolution into architecture. Experiments that were all based on rigid product solutions; with a lack of flexibility in political, programmatic and technical sense. The “one size fits all” worked for a car, but not for a building. Architecture is highly context-specific product, rooted in local culture, local climate and local urban context.

At the start of the 21st century we are at the beginning of a New Industrial Revolution. One in which digital fabrication technologies create a direct connection between the digital and the physical world. Atoms are the new bits. This new industrial revolution offers ‘mass-customization’ with the benefits of ‘mass-production’

“Right now there is a bit of hype in the media about 3D printers, but it is silly because the articles are written by journalists who don’t even actually use them. There is a revolution today, which is digital fabrication, which means turning data into things and things into data, and the 3D printer is a small corner of that big space. (…) There are bigger machines that involve much more complex processes.” (Neil Gershenfeld in Barcelona Metropolis, sept. 2014)

It is those big digital fabrication machines - often using far developed subtractive techniques like CNC milling - that already have significant applicability in the realization of buildings today. The same unique digital model that is used during design and engineering can be sent directly to digital fabrication machines to be physicalized on full scale. In the field of architecture the New Industrial Revolution provides the opportunity to fully re-integrate currently fragmented disciplines of design, engineering and production.

MaCuBs – part of graduation studio Architectural Engineering – is developing and applying building systems created through digital fabrication techniques. Through research, design, prototypes and pilot projects MaCuBs explores the potential of digital fabrication in building industry to solve real world problems in innovative and realistic ways. Challenges MaCuB students are currently working on include the development of safe and affordable construction systems for slums, the transformation of vacant offices through mass-customized interiors, and the use of the speed and flexibility of digital production to house asylum seekers. The Product Development Lab investigates how digital fabrication techniques could provide an economic and ecological advantage for the building sector.

Many aspects of the New Industrial Revolution are involved in the design projects and the research: open source knowledge, fab-labs, mass-customization, local production, file-to-factory, new business models, new collaborations between architect and client and new kinds of ornamentation.

Images on the left: Graduation Projects by students of Architectural Engineering:
1. A cnc milled building system for flexible DIY transformation by Daan Meeder
2. An optimization of force flows in cnc milled friction-fit connections by Leonard Vischer
3. A system to transform vacant offices into flexible cities by Leon Zondervan
4. New roles in the design process through digital technologies by Freek van Zeist
5. A cnc milled formwork to create safe structures in slums by Nadia Remmerswaal
6. A 3D printed element for varying integrated green facades by Jasper Manders
COLOPHON

aE journal | Volume 6, no 1/2015

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Publisher: Chair of Architectural Engineering

Layout Design: Bureau Arjan Karssen BNO
Layout: Heleen van Russen Groen
Print: Lenoirschuring drukkers

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aE Day 2016
15 March 2016 - don’t miss it!