

Round Table Session

A BETTER TOMORROW?

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A Stimulus to the Round Table Discussion

There is no doubt that ICT has brought about a paradigm shift in architectural practice, teaching and research. This community - in Europe and beyond - can rightly congratulate itself not only in transforming how we have changed our understanding, operation and delivery of the built environment. Moreover, we have introduced and excited our students to the notion of virtual environments.

The thrilling success of ICT to transform the paradigm may, by its very success, cause our community to be complacent. The intention of this Round Table is to challenge this complacency and to open a new four decades of progress.

Of course, in the earliest days (maybe still?), the challenges came from threatened practitioners; the first challenge from within the community came with the publication of "CAAD's Seven Deadly Sins" [1] in 1995. Among these were: Macro-myopia (the propensity to overestimate the short term benefits and underestimate the long term): Deja-Vu (reinventing the wheel - much more common before the introduction of IJAC and Cumincad); Failure to Evaluate (central this Round Table!) and Failure to Criticize (also an issue in this Round Table).

But a decade earlier (when the profession was most sceptical), eCAADe persuaded the (then) Commission of the European Communities to sponsor a meeting and prepare a report on the current and anticipated social impacts of CAAD. This work addressed impacts on practice, education, interdisciplinary collaboration and on the client/user involvement in the design process. The outcome is

comprehensively reported in the publication in Design Studies [2]. Prophetically, it anticipated that potential benefits resulting from "client-oriented systems" and "user participation in design" would result.

Now, further opportunity to assess the impacts and address the challenges is offered at the Lodz Conference and in this Round Table. It will focus on the Conference theme "A Better Tomorrow". It will be structured to allow 5 Panellists - Robert Aish (Visiting Professor at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London), Antje Kunze (Solution Manager for BIM and Smart Cities at ESRI Germany), Harlen Miller (Associate Designer and practicing Architect in UNStudios, Amsterdam), Urs Hirschberg (Professor of Architecture and New Media at Graz University of Technology) and Martijn Stellingwerff (Associate Professor in Form and Modelling Studies, at the Technical University of Delft). The Chairperson will be Tom Maver (Research Professor at the Mackintosh School of Architecture and Emeritus Professor in the University of Strathclyde).

Panellists will have 10 minutes to address some of the following questions. Thereafter ALL participants will be invited to contribute.

- Do we do enough to evaluate the efficacy of the software we produce, regarding a better tomorrow? OR like cuckoos and most architects, just "lay it and leave it"?
- Are we sufficiently concerned with the interests of building users, building owners and the community, particularly in regard to a better tomorrow?

- Does practice and academia have a suitable forum and focus for exchange; in eCAADe or elsewhere? Can we improve the exchange to produce a better tomorrow?
- In the earliest days, it was the best students who pushed the ideas; are we doing enough to engage them with a better tomorrow: - a healthier, prettier, happier, more sustainable, smarter tomorrow?
- Any other issue that you wish to address.

This is YOUR Conference. Please give some thought to this stimulus statement and come to the event with your own questions and ideas.

REFERENCES

- Maver, T 1986, 'Social impacts of computer aided architectural design', *Design Studies*, 7, pp. 178-184
- Maver, T 1995 'CAAD's Seven Deadly Sins', *International Conference on Computer-Aided Architectural design Futures*, Singapore