

SOCIETY OF BUILDING SCIENCE EDUCATORS SBSE NEWS

FALL 2000



photo: Emad Alifi

SBSEers and the Taliesin Fellowship mingle under threatening skies while guzzling cocktails at Taliesin. [It wasn't much fun.—ed.]

DISH FROM THE TALIESIN RETREAT

In an e-mail to an errant SBSEer I wrote, "The retreat was lovely, mosquitoes and all. [We pledge to provide mosquito relief at Redfish Lake. Say, "High-tech!"—ed.] The students were a positive contribution. Emad was so happy that he volunteered to write it up for the *News* without me provoking him! You woulda loved the cocktail party at Taliesin (freedom to roam the premises, wine in hand) and working in the drafting room at Hillside with tourists gawking." Emad and other SBSEers lapsed into their usual visually articulate mode and provided few words but many photos of the retreat and other summer activities. I've implored Walter Grondzik to add these photographic recollections to the SBSE website. In the meantime enjoy a few selected images dispersed throughout this issue of the *News*. ■

—Bruce Haglund



photo: Bruce Haglund

Mike, Murray, Sandra, and Tahar design under Hillside's fine toplighting.

SBSE CALENDAR

2000

- Oct 1 ASES technical paper abstracts due
- Nov 2–4 ARCC Annual Meeting; San Francisco, CA

2001

- Apr 21–25 ASES Solar2001 Conf.; Washington, DC
- Apr 21 SBSE Annual Meeting; Washington, DC
- Jun 9–12 SBSE Retreat; Redfish Lake, ID
- Jun 15–18 ACSA Int'l Conference; Istanbul
- Jun 23–27 ASHRAE Annual Mtg.; Cincinnati, OH ■

CYPRUS RETREAT REVIVAL?

Contact Fatih Rifki, <rifki@unity.ncsu.edu> or 919.515.8347, if you're interested in an SBSE Summer Retreat in Northern Cyprus (a 75-minute plane ride from Istanbul) in conjunction with ACSA International in Istanbul next June. The cost of the retreat would be about \$500 (airfare from Istanbul and accommodations for 3–4 days). A topic related to the location and climate will be chosen and local universities engaged. ■

—Fatih Rifki

SBSE DUES DUE, DUDES

Believe it or not, your annual dues are due. Use the handy form enclosed in this newsletter. ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Your gentle, complimentary editorial about the handing over of the green eyeshade at *Connector* was much appreciated, but I must take issue (an editor's pun) with your assertion that *Connector* focused on structures.

Look at the last five issues. Spring '98 included coverage of Alison Kwok's "Vital Signs" project, new architecture graduate programs at USC and Oregon, a lighting multimedia information system, an interdisciplinary laboratory, an acoustics demonstration, Terri Boake's thoughts on apertures in buildings, resources for climate-responsive design, and one article on structures. Fall '98 featured articles on an integrated studio that included ECS issues, the SBSE retreat in Taos, a scheme to install radiant heating in Fallingwater, an open building task group (much of whose focus is on plumbing), masonry camp, welded steel furniture, and reviews of two structures textbooks. Spring '99 printed two articles on structures, along with one on an integrated studio with ECS, and one on a conference that covered all areas of technical teaching. Fall '99 had one article on structures, two on integrated studios, three short items pointing to sources of good stuff in the ECS area, and a feature on creative ECS quizzes by a gent named Haglund who must be related to you. Spring 2000 was a retrospective issue that reprinted three articles on structures, plus others on SBSE, a studio that included ECS, and the "all-time best idea printed in *Connector*," another gem from the mysterious, but evidently gifted, Prof. Haglund. All in all, this

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TOM'S LONDON SPRING

London is a wild and wonderful place to study architecture and urbanism. Such were the conclusions of twenty design students (architecture, interiors, and landscape) and TJB, who directed WSU's twelfth, ten-week London Program. Britain has a diverse, inclusive culture; a climate similar to the Pacific NW (where most of our students will practice); an exciting international center for the arts and sciences; and natives who speak "English." Although we arranged temporary membership and classes at London's Architectural Association, the wonderful buildings, landscapes, and municipalities of England and Scotland were our laboratory. Our work is posted on our web site <<http://www.arch.wsu.edu/~london>>.

For SBSEers, the 'S' word (sustainability) is a well-established paradigm. However, here are a few highlights of provocative ideas and important sustainable developments.

- **"Mind your way!"** In England you are directed to "mind your way," a more inclusive, multi-dimensional approach to life than our cautionary "watch out!" One of the more effective ways to "mind your way" in London was to read (and love) Rasmussen's classic *London: The Unique City*.
- **Urbanism.** Healthy villages and cities are everywhere—with wonderful senses of community and animated public realms. Their organic development and medieval townscapes surpass most American paradigms on the "new" urbanism. Although dissolved by Margaret Thatcher, the Greater London Council and new/old town planning efforts demonstrate many successes.
- **Urban housing.** The students explored the importance of high-density, low-rise, mixed-use housing to the vitality of the public realm. We were very fortunate to collaborate with David Porter, an architect-educator who helped set up a challenging urban housing design problem in London. Coincidentally, at the conclusion of our studies, the UK government published a profound national policy on housing <<http://www.planning.detr.gov.uk/ppg3/5.htm>> whose principles parallel SBSE concepts and our London academic agenda. David, a wonderful contributor to our studies, has just been appointed head of the architectural program at the Glasgow School of Art.
- **BRE's office building prototype.** BRE's (and Ove Arup's) sustainable architecture strategies (solar control, daylighting, and natural [no A/C] cooling) are being applied in many significant contemporary buildings. The BRE building offered our students a standing example of green architecture.
- **"Space stations."** The new Jubilee Line Extension (JLE) has created London's astonishing space stations. By riding the JLE and exploring the ten new stations one can experience a new world of underground travel designed by the who's who of architecture in England. London's old "tube" stations (truly underground) have been replaced by "space stations" whose wonderful atria lead the traveler up to the surface through dramatic paths of space and light. Foster's Canary Wharf and Hopkin's Westminster stations are "A++" examples.

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WSU architecture students visit BRE's new building.

photo: Tom Bartuska



Sandra Mallory and Murray Milne smile and mind their way.

photo: Alison Kwok

TOM'S LONDON SPRING [CONTINUED]

- **Celebrating the new millennium.** In a gutsy move, the British government established a national millennial lottery to celebrate architecture and urbanism and to fund:
 - nearly 600 museums and galleries (at over \$800 million)
 - 52,072 hectares of land acquisitions to conserve natural heritage
 - 656 natural environment projects that will protect habitat, species and woodlands
 - repairs to over 600 churches and community facilities
 - 60 town center improvements through Townspace and Heritage Initiative grants
 - 253 urban park improvement projects
 - over 1,400 historic building renovations.

For an amazing ten weeks we minded our way in this remarkable city and country. How about an SBSE retreat in the United Kingdom in 2001/2? █

-Tom Bartuska

LETTERS [CONTINUED]

would seem to be quite a balanced diet of structures, ECS, materials, and items of general interest to all technology teachers.

It is true that my editorials were often directed at structures teachers, because structures is, without argument, the most conservatively and illogically taught technical area in architectural education. Most ECS teachers, unlike most structures teachers, realized years ago that technical teaching is design teaching. Thus, I felt little need to focus my inky, impotent fury on ECS folk.

The point is this: *Connector* tried to cover all areas of technical education in schools of architecture. On the whole, it did so with a fairly even hand, and I hope that it will continue to do so. Meanwhile, the ECS subjects have the substantial additional advantage of your best of all newsletters in architectural education, for which I am grateful.

-Ed Allen, *Connector* editor emeritus

[I stand corrected (and in awe!). See page 8 for a glimpse of Connector's future.-ed.]



I opened my Summer 2000 newsletter, saw the cartoon, and said, "That looks like Malcolm Wells!" before reading his and your notes. I would love to see him at one of our retreats/gatherings. *[Guzowski's workin' on it.-ed.]*

Spent the last two months in Europe—five weeks in Paris and a week in London with the U's summer program, and two weeks in the south of France with relatives, my wife, and our youngest two kids (21 and 16). Also visited Florence, Venice, Interlocken, and Barcelona. Had a fantastic time. *[Duh!-ed.]*

The newsletter is wonderful as usual—keep up the good work. I always read it cover to cover.

-Eddie Cazayoux, Southwestern Louisiana

[Yeah, but did you do anything worthwhile over the summer?-ed.]



I hope this letter finds you well, enjoying the Idaho summer, and not experiencing too much forest fire smoke! I spent a couple of weeks in Bozeman this summer—the scene was spooky with the dryness, smoke, and Newark sunsets.

• continued page 6

2001 RETREAT AT REDFISH LAKE

It's time to contemplate attending next year's SBSE Retreat at Redfish Lake, tight against the Sawtooth Range in Idaho's Stanley Basin—one of the more beautiful places on the face of the earth. Redfish Lake Lodge offers rustic accommodations (from lodge rooms to multi-plex cabins, to private cabins) and good food *[BLTs on squishy white bread toast and Buds are good food?-ed.'s ed. Hey! The setting elevates the cuisine.-ed. You mean like hot dogs at the ballpark?-ed.'s ed.]*. SBSEers' families will find abundant distractions from hiking to boating, fishing to swimming, horseback riding to sightseeing. There are also campgrounds and ordinary motels nearby.

Mark your calendars! The retreat is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 9 through Tuesday, June 12, 2001. Alison Kwok is coordinating the content of the retreat, so our run of engaging and stimulating retreats will continue! Retreat details and applications to participate will be published in the December *SBSE News*. █

-Bruce Haglund



Big Rock is a short day hike away, 1000' above Redfish Lake.

photo: Pam Egoshira



Redfish Lake Lodge is located at the northeast end of Redfish Lake. The porch is sun-flooded during the day.

photo: Bruce Haglund



Redfish Lake and the "Sawteeth" viewed from the northeast.

topo: generated from Delorme 3-D Topos

SBSE PEOPLE

► **Ed Allen** and **Chris Luebke** will be featured speakers at the joint MIT–Uruguay Eladio Dieste Symposium. Ed thinks the best part will be the two-day tour of Dieste’s work in Montevideo.

📖 Help **Dana Buntrock** establish local contacts to draw into the classroom—architects inclined to craft, sympathetic contractors, artisans, fabricators, materials scientists, and building deconstruction people—to aid her in her new position teaching construction materials at UC Berkeley.

🏠 **Eddie Cazayoux** received the Peterson Prize from the National Park Service Historic American Building Survey (HABS) for documentation of the Stephanie Plantation House in Louisiana.

👤 Retirement has attracted **Larry Degelman** (TAMU) and **Dan Dougald** (UVa), but you’ll see them on the conference circuit.

🏢 **Brooke Harrington** is the new director of the architecture program at Temple.

✚ **Adam Jackaway** moved from Montana to Boulder for the building systems master’s in engineering. He also took the big leap—bought a house, and installed a 1.7kW PV system on the garage. Ahh, what a joy to watch the meter spin backwards!

📰 From the August 27, 2000, *Marin Independent Journal*, “**Robert Peña** has been promoted to vice president of Van der Ryn Architects of Sausalito. Peña heads the firm’s ecological consulting group.”

★ **Mojtaba (Mojib) Navvab** became an IESNA Fellow for his outstanding contributions to both the art and science of illumination—five IESNA International Illumination Design Awards and awards for daylighting research as well as for his input on renowned architectural commissions of the 20th century.

🏛️ **Jonathan Reich** and **Sandy Stannard** co-directed the University of Idaho summer architecture program in Rome (at Penn State’s “Sede di Roma”).

🏠 While juggling the logistics for the Taliesin retreat, **Jim Wasley** was promoted and tenured at UW Milwaukee. ||

NETWORKING FOR YOU

CLIMATE DATA

We would like to tell you about a Hay fund project—Climatic Design Resources—we are working on and ask for a little assistance. Our project focuses on summarizing the geographic variability of climates in formats that will help architects understand the climatic context in which they design. The data provide some of the information required to choose passive heating and cooling strategies. We are collecting, organizing, analyzing, and interpreting climatic information for 24 representative U.S. cities which is available for download from our website <<http://ecodesign.arch.wustl.edu/cdr/index.htm>>.

We are looking for high-quality original images for use in each of the write-ups—images that would invoke the feel of your local climate and its natural forces, perhaps a cloudscape, natural vegetation, contemporary or historical examples of climatic design in your region. Since we are designing the publication for user download and printing from *Adobe Acrobat*, we need copyright-free, high-resolution digital files or original slides, prints, or negatives. We will return all images unless you tell us otherwise. In exchange we can offer you digital copies of all the climatic analyses along with a high-quality printout of the final report for the city of your choice, acknowledgment on the web site and in publications, and a summary of your climatic-design related work on our contributors page along with a link to your web site and e-mail, if desired. We anticipate completion in Spring 2001. If you can make a contribution in any way, please contact David Meyers at <meyersdc@yahoo.com>.

–M ark D eK ay

WORKSHOP—TEACHING TECHNICAL SUBJECTS

Just before last July’s ACSA Technology Conference a teaching workshop, organized by Oregon faculty members Ed Allen, Don Corner, John Reynolds, and Christine Theodoropoulos, was held at MIT. Each of us, seventeen in all, presented a “best twenty minutes of teaching” and “what I believe about technical teaching in architecture.” We all benefited from the ensuing frank and supportive criticism. And what lively and engaging presentation styles. Some had a way of drawing in someone from the onset by asking a few provocative questions. Others had superb examples to accompany each technical point. I would enjoy so many of these classes! In fact, there was recruiting going on; we tech teachers seem to be in demand.

We gained from the wide range of institutions represented—Arizona, California, Hong Kong, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, and Utah—and of subjects taught—material and methods, design–build, structures, and environmental control systems as well as design studio. The consistent emphases were how these technical courses can best provide the criteria for design studio decisions and how our courses might benefit from teaching techniques employed in design studio.

We ended with a drawing for several technical books donated by John Wiley & Sons, followed by a unique tour of Boston’s “Big Dig,” organized by Sharon Matthews and the Big Dig’s unofficial photographer. This memorable tour included an on-site talk with the design team for the huge Boston Convention Center.

Should we do this again? Stay tuned.

–J ohn R eynolds

ICHING TAKES A BACK SEAT

Fuller Moore’s book, *Understanding Structures*, has been translated into Chinese and published by McGraw–Hill Singapore. [Watch out, Frank Sun! This could be the prelude to a whole series of SBSE-authored books with catchy new Chinese titles!–ed.] ||

–F uller M oore

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

photos: Bruce Haglund



June 21, 2000, Monona Terrace, Madison, Wisconsin.



Attending: Emad Afifi (Savannah), Khalid Al Sallal (United Arab Emirates), Harvey Bryan (Arizona State), Larry Degelman (Texas A&M), Steve Dent (New Mexico), Walter Grondzik (Florida A&M), Bruce Haglund (Idaho), Katy Janda (AAAS Fellow, Berkeley/EPA), Norbert Lechner (Auburn), Sandra Mallory (Slippery Rock), Murray Milne (UCLA), Victor Olgvay (Ensar Group), Jennifer Rennick (Cal Poly SLO), John Reynolds (Oregon), Steve Sandifer (UCLA), Suvira Shyamlee (Arizona State), Mike Utzinger (Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Jim Wasley (Wisconsin-Milwaukee).

Meeting called to order by Walter Grondzik, President. Regrets were brought forward on behalf of Terri Boake, Alison Kwok, and Margot McDonald. Terri was not able to transmit the Treasurer's Report in time to present at this meeting. [See sidebar for complete report. -ed.]

Bruce Haglund asked for contributions to the *SBSE News*. A round of applause for Bruce and appreciation both for the [-ed.] and [-ed.'s ed.] comments that enliven the newsletter.

WWW site. Question—should we add phone and fax numbers to the on-line directory? Answer—no, privacy issues and screen formatting complexity.

Free first-year membership for newcomers? Why not? But there was no official vote. [The nominal \$15 shows commitment. -ed.]

Walter Grondzik continues to coordinate the peer review process and reports great success.

This year's retreat. We expect 23 to attend; many hearty cheers to Emad Afifi and Jim Wasley for organizing it.

Next year's retreat. An astonishingly quick decision—a rustic lodge at Redfish Lake, Idaho (elev. 6000 ft.) in mid-June. Logistics guy, Bruce Haglund, brought slides but no mosquitoes. Alison Kwok has volunteered to coordinate the program—some combination of Vital Signs and Advice from the Aged. Stay tuned.

Connections: Mary Guzowski is organizing a segment of next year's ACSA Annual Meeting, a very hopeful sign for technology coordination. Solar 2001 will be in Washington, DC, in April. (Note: SBSE Annual Meetings take place at the ASES Conference.)

China Workshops 2001: Frank Sun is still working on it, but no news.

John Reynolds, re-faced [sic . . . The vision of JR 're-faced' conjures up disturbing images. -Fuller], announced that various errata [With JR's typing, errata are a given. -ed.] in the new 9th edition of *MEEB* can be obtained by e-mail from Nyshie Perkinson, <nperkins@wiley.com>. [At press time, I still have not received my requested errata. -ed.]

John Reynolds then pitched (as in promoted, not discarded) Oregon's program leading to a Certificate in Technical Teaching. (Considering tenure? Build a teaching portfolio with us!)

Murray Milne asked if we should consider a name change (à la "Solar" to "Sustainability" in ASES); might we find a pronounceable acronym? [Who put the BS in SBSE? Who was that man? I want to shake his hand! But, hey, Sustainable Building Science Educators also describes us. -ed.] So we reminisced about the West Coast ECS Club and The Jets, then adjourned for dinner. ■

-J ohn R eynolds

SBSE FINANCIAL REPORT JUNE 2000

We are in the midst of collecting monies and expending funds for the 2000 Retreat, hence this rough financial report.

Balance as of April 30, 1999
Savings \$15,173.26
Checking \$227.92

Balance as of **May 31, 2000**
Savings \$12,701.12
Checking \$1,657.04

TOTAL ASSETS \$14,358.16

Dues received to-date
Existing members: 70@ \$25 \$1,750.00
New members: 9@ \$15 \$135.00
Next year's dues: 2@ \$25 \$50.00
TOTAL DUES RECEIVED \$1,935.00

EXPENSES

SBSE News production/distribution
June 1999 \$210.73
October 1999 + directory \$1,129.25
December 1999 \$289.85
April 2000 \$281.89
TOTAL \$1,911.72

Retreat and ACSA Technology 1999
Ray Cole honorarium \$500.00
Tadoussac Retreat (a wash) \$0.00
Slide collection and conversion
to CD-ROM \$1,453.70
SBSE Web Site \$264.00
TOTAL EXPENSES \$4,129.42

-Terri Meyer Boake



photos: Alison Kwok

The (un)usual suspects gather for the ASES awards dinner.

LETTERS [CONTINUED]

Hoping not to get too rusty (hey, wasn't that why I left Eugene?), I've been doing some teaching and lecturing, most recently presenting a May seminar on "Passive Design" at the PG&E Energy Center and a spring course "Site and Sun" at the San Francisco Institute of Architecture. This fall I'll guest lecture in Gail Brager's "Natural Cooling" class at UCB, presenting a case study of three current projects for Berea College in Kentucky—a 50,000 SF renovation, a 3-story sunspace/atrium connecting two existing buildings, and a new 32-apartment "Eco Village."

I miss the UO and the opportunities to hang-out with my SBSE pals, but I'm back "in school," learning a lot, and hoping to be better prepared for the lecture hall when I return to the academy.

—Robert Peña, Vanderlyn Architects/
EDI

[How about coming to Redfish Lake, just to keep academic/professional cross-fertilization alive?—ed.]



Sorry I didn't respond when asked about the rumours of my new teaching post. I was in a state of electronic limbo, with my temporary computer only able to receive. I have taken a new teaching post at UNC Charlotte. And it's great to be able to say, "I'm delighted to be here." Also, as you know, I have an outrageous view on radical holism in environmental education. I hope to find some time to send an editor to the letter. [Huh? What letter am I going to? Q?—ed.]

—Paul B. Clark UNC

[Thanks for keeping your views secret. They could cause quite a ripple! And why would we ever want to discuss anything controversial?—ed.] ■



photo: Tom Bartuska

JLE space station

RESEARCH NOTES

FULBRIGHT FOR MARK DEKAY

[Sorry to miss all the summer events. I leave for India as soon as my (delayed) visa arrives. Here's the official press release from Wash U. The application, limited to a five-page proposal, included recommendations by some SBSE heavies, I suggest you give it a shot. This year's applications were due in August. Look for a Vital Signs web site with Indian content in late fall.—Mark]

Mark DeKay will spend the next five months researching and teaching climate and architecture in Ahmedabad, India, through the J. William Fulbright U.S. Faculty and Professional Grant Program. DeKay was awarded a lecture appointment at the School of Architecture, Center for Environmental Planning and Technology in Ahmedabad, which is in the western Indian state of Gujarat. The region is known for its hot, arid climate throughout most of the year and hot, humid conditions during the monsoon season, roughly late June through August.

DeKay will introduce Indian students to a range of U.S. software and monitoring tools for analyzing indigenous climatic patterns and for better understanding of local, climate-based building design. "Through the cultural exchange program, I will be able to demonstrate a variety of U.S. research and software technologies for assessing various buildings' energy performance, while observing Indian design methods for indoor/outdoor spaces that do not depend on mechanical air-conditioning despite extreme climatic conditions."

While American architects tend to design self-contained, temperate-climate buildings that require energy-consuming mechanical controls to regulate indoor environments, Indian architects adapt buildings more closely to exterior climatic conditions due to a different building economy with low labor costs and high costs for energy, materials, and equipment, DeKay noted. He believes U.S. architects have much to learn from Indian techniques, ranging from more flexible adaptation of space to innovative use of materials, to design strategies that allow buildings to let in or shut out exterior conditions—all depending on climatic patterns.

—Mark DeKay

ASSESSMENT SHUTS SCHOOL DOWN

Tang Lee conducted a total environmental assessment of a high school in Halifax, Nova Scotia. During the past six years the school had 276 written complaints of illnesses from teachers and students. Previously, several air quality investigators identified some of the air contaminants and spent over \$220,000 on mitigation. Unfortunately the investigators did not address the source of water penetration through the building envelope. Tang opened up 40 holes in the walls and ceiling and found toxigenic molds such as stachybotrys. He estimated it would cost \$5 million to mitigate, but the Minister of Education allocated \$8 million. [What an enlightened ministry!—ed's ed.] Based on Tang's report, the school has shut down, and 1,000 students are sharing space in other schools until the mitigation is completed. ■

—Tang Lee

TEXTBOOK DELAYS

The second edition of *Sun, Wind, and Light* by G. Z. Brown and Mark DeKay, John Wiley & Sons, is now due for release in late September 2000.

The second edition of *Heating Cooling Lighting: Design Methods for Architects* by Norbert Lechner, John Wiley & Sons, is now due for release mid-December 2000.

Wiley had tried to release the books in time for the fall semester, but it was not possible. Wiley and the authors are sorry for any inconvenience. [Beware the Marked DeLays and No-book Lectures, John 'in a' Whiley!—ed.] ■

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE REVIEWS

TIA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Conference attracted 173 architects from the U.K. and 38 other countries to Somerville College at Oxford. Some 44 schools of architecture participated.

The layout of the conference was convenient with the lecture rooms arranged around the central quadrangle. Two large TIA tents were erected in the centre, one holding the exhibition and registration desk and the other, tea and lunch. The residential rooms were also situated around the quad. While not luxurious, the rooms were reasonably priced. Outside arrangements were made for the student delegates.

The debate was occasionally heated, and there seemed to be a real passion for the subjects from many speakers. The feeling was that this conference was timely in terms of the need to upgrade the teaching material in schools of architecture due to the high environmental impacts of buildings.

Sixty-two design competition entries were received from sixteen countries, the majority from Europe. The most heartwarming event was the presentation of the prizes to students from seven different countries. They were generously applauded for their achievements. *[Best thing about TIA was the reception held in Oxford's incredible Pitts-Rivers Museum with its awe-inspiring gothic glass-roofed main hall filled with huge dinosaurs and its other halls packed full of amazing stuff like shrunken heads, blow guns, and unwrapped mummies. We stayed in Somerville College, one of the first women's colleges at Oxford, so it was newer with lovely formal lawns and gardens, though still clearly at dorm-level comfort. -Murray]*

We will hold two more workshops—in Rome in 2001 on thermal mass and in the Iranian City of Yazd, the city of windcatchers, on natural ventilation in 2002. We have an opportunity to provide an impetus for change in the agenda of teaching in architecture schools in Europe and the world-at-large. We thank the EU for helping us make this happen.

-Susan Roaf

PLEA CAMBRIDGE

After punting on the River Cam, along the Backs (the greenway along the river, home to cattle) and under the Bridge of Sighs, the 17th Passive Low Energy Architecture (PLEA) international conference commenced in historic Cambridge, U.K., July 2-5, addressing sustainable design with respect to architecture, the city, and the environment. SBSEers in attendance included Nader Chalfoun, Jeff Cook, Larry Degelman, Claude Demers, Baruch Givoni, Ralph Knowles, Alison Kwok, Lance Lavine, J. Owen Lewis, Sandra Mallory, Murray Milne, Victor Olgyay, Andre Potvin, and Marc Schiler. Plenary speakers included Baruch Givoni, J. Owen Lewis, Jeff Cook, Ralph Knowles, and Doug Balcomb.

Many of us stayed in comfortable dorms at the majestic King's College, some of which overlook the Great Court, while families opted for nearby English beds and breakfasts. The gala dinner was memorable for the King's College vocal septet, two wines, an undistinguished salmon mousse, and after-dinner port. The venue afforded little time for question and debate during the sessions, but ample time for networking during lunch and tea breaks. *[The best thing about PLEA was the banquet in the huge wood paneled, portrait-lined dining hall at King's College, where we were serenaded by the senior boys' octet—what acoustics!!! I was among those who attended Evensong earlier that evening in that famous chapel where I think it was Darwin who said that the notes of the boys' choir fell like crystals off the magnificent gothic ceiling. -Murray]*

Stay tuned for next year's PLEA conference in Brasil.

-Alison Kwok

THE EAAE/ARCC PARIS CONFERENCE

SBSE was well-represented at ARCC/EAAE's Research and Architecture conference in Paris—both in terms of presentations and attendees. The École des Beaux-Arts and Paris were delightful despite Florida-style thunderstorms, quirky AV equipment, and noisy construction for a fashion show. Over 40 peer-reviewed papers were presented, including papers by SBSE members from the U.S., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

Discussion and substantial controversy revolved around defining what constitutes research and what the role of research in architecture might be. "Can 'research' valued by architects attain validation in the community of the sciences and is there validated research that architects value?" These are not purely academic questions in these times of shrinking higher education budgets, administrative demands for interdisciplinary projects, and a perceived shrinking of the impact of architecture on the quality of our environments.

Stay tuned for the next conference in this reciprocating series, likely to be in Ottawa or Montreal in 2002. ■

-Walter G rondzik



PLEA attendees enjoy the gala at Cambridge.

photo: Alison Kwok



Jeff Cook tells it like it is at PLEA.

photo: Alison Kwok

HUMAN COMFORT?



photo: Larry Degelman

Ms. Human Comfort in Humid Climates, a.k.a. a.k., demonstrates inappropriate vs. appropriate clothing levels for July in Paris. [So, which poser is more comfortable?—ed.]



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C/O BRUCE HAGLUND
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
PO BOX 442451
MOSCOW, ID 83844-2451

CONNECTOR LIVES!

[Ed Allen has passed on Connector's green eyeshades to a promising new editor. Please heed her pleas for input. I wish Christine great success in continuing to rally technical faculty toward networking to improve our teaching worldwide.—ed.]

Beginning with the Fall 2000 issue, faculty and students at the University of Oregon will assume publication of *Connector, A Forum for Teachers of Technology in Schools of Architecture*. In doing so we will continue to honor the newsletter's focus on teaching, while providing faculty in the areas of structures and construction with a forum that parallels the environmental focus of the *SBSE News*.

Of course this evolution would never have happened without the support, inspiration, and commitment of Ed Allen, *Connector's* founder and editor for the last eight years. With Ed's assistance Volume X will be published in Fall 2000 and *Connector's* new home will be established. It is our intention that *Connector* continues to function as an informal exchange among colleagues. We will expand the editorial staff to include graduate students at the University of Oregon and faculty *[and students, too?—ed.]* from other institutions as guest editors.

Now for the begging, whining, and nagging. We are eager to print views and accounts of technical teaching *[including SBSE topics as Ed Allen clearly pointed out in his letter to the editor—ed.]* and welcome short articles, news items, and free want ads that would be of interest to technology teachers in North America and beyond. We are also seeking guest editors for future issues. Please contact me, Christine Theodoropoulos, editor; *Connector*; Department of Architecture; University of Oregon; 541.346.3661; <ctheodor@darkwing.uoregon.edu>. ||

—Christine Theodoropoulos

WINTER ISSUE SUBMITTAL DEADLINE—DECEMBER 1
