

# SOCIETY OF BUILDING SCIENCE EDUCATORS SBSE NEWS

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# WINTER 1995

## A NATIONAL ACADEMY OF BUILDING SCIENCE

[In the last issue we alluded to Murray Milne's draft proposal for a new way of educating architects. Since then, Murray has circulated it widely for feedback. Below, we have published a condensed version of his proposal and some of the comments it has solicited. Join the fray, and give Murray a piece of your mind. Weaned at the bosom of Casey Stengel, I love mixed metaphors!—ed.]

### PURPOSE

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Create an "Inter-University" that would grant an accredited, professionally-oriented doctorate in Building Science.

### OBJECTIVES

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- Prepare a cohort of professionals who would raise the level of expertise architects offer to society, and ultimately, radically improve the way architecture is practiced.
- Create a degree that would communicate to the public the degree holder's demonstrated extraordinary, advanced professional knowledge and capabilities.
- Prepare those graduates who choose teaching careers to create new modes of teaching and new directions for existing schools.
- Complement and cooperate with all existing master's degree programs to offer their best graduates participation in a doctoral program.
- Build the strongest faculty imaginable by bringing together senior people who teach Building Science in schools of architecture throughout North America.
- Produce dissertations that address issues specifically concerned with improving the quality of architectural services (as opposed to the more theoretically-oriented dissertations of traditional doctoral candidates).
- Take advantage of the latest technology in distance learning and electronic media to bring people together.
- Graduate our first class in the year 2000!

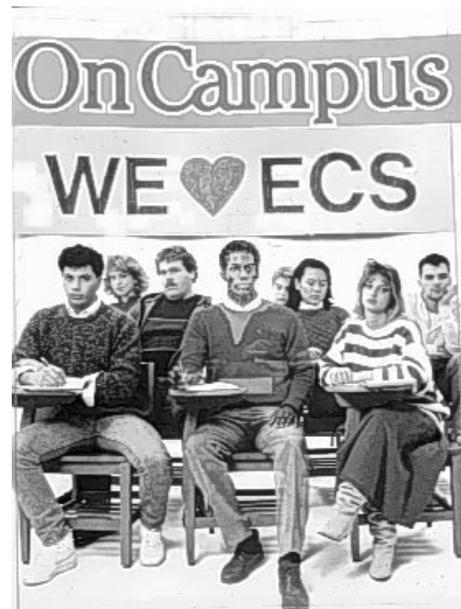
### STRUCTURE

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The Faculty of the Academy would be composed of tenured professors from accredited schools of architecture who teach courses in Building Science. Their time commitment to the Academy would be equivalent to only a course or two; their primary time commitment would remain with their home institution. Initially, much of the faculty's time would be voluntary. Eventually, faculty would receive an honorarium for serving as chair or member of the dissertation committee or for teaching a course offered to all students in the Academy (typically via electronic media). In any case, the faculty would always be reimbursed for their actual, out-of-pocket expenses (such as travel, communications, copies, supplies).

The administration of the Academy would be by a board of regents, who would be elected by the faculty. They would also elect a provost, and they might appoint an executive officer responsible for day-to-day management. A deans council made up of current and former deans and chairs (e.g., Don Watson, Pony Fraker, Ralph Knowles, Bill McDonough, Joe Esherick, Bill Mitchell, Ray Kappe) would advise the regents. A board of advisors (e.g., Amory Lovins, Al Gore, Susan Maxman, Randy Croxton, Stewart Brand, Nick Negroponte) could also be assembled.

An annual convocation held during the late summer would provide the opportunity for the regents to evaluate final dissertation presentations; for new students to meet potential mentors, to meet potential committee members, and to refine their proposals; for the design competition exhibition; to hold the annual meeting; and, ultimately, for the commencement exercises.



*Building Science students as seen by the popular press?*

### THE POLLS ARE IN

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On the occasion of this fall's election, Mary Guzowski became SBSE president as John Reynolds became president emeritus, retaining his board position. Fuller Moore rotates off the board of directors. According to the ballots cast, Margot McDonald is our president-elect! Leonard Bachman continues as secretary/treasurer. Both will serve two-year terms. Margot will then ascend to a two-year term as president. ■

—Mary Guzowski

### SBSE CALENDAR

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Jan 15	Deadline—retreat applications
Apr 13-18	SBSE Annual Meeting at ASES
Jun 17-30	Cyprus Summer Retreat
Jun 19-23	Pomona Summer Retreat

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 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
 

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The newsletter looks great as always. When is the next deadline? You are still advertising Sept 1 for the Fall? I do like to send tidbits in the nick of time!

—Terri Meyer Boake, Waterloo

*[Terri caught my big screw-up. What's on this issue's mess-up menu?—ed.]*



Hope all's well in Idaho. You and Tisha did **another** beautiful job on the newsletter—it was packed with great stuff.

On another topic, do you have any words of advice for submitting a book proposal? I've been working on an article about daylighting and ecology and realize that it should be a book (*Daylighting and Ecology: Eight Principles on Behalf of the Environment*—or something like that). I'm interested in knowing what you might have submitted when you developed a proposal for *Insideout* (outlines, chapters, sample writing). I've asked Wiley and Van Nostrand to send guidelines, but some "real" suggestions would be helpful.

Mary Guzowski, Minnesota

*[Thanks for filling the GZB role (sucking up!). Can anyone help Mary? I just had John Reynolds strong-arm Wiley—imagine!—ed. Looking for someone to help you provide camera-ready copy?—ed's ed.]*



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 SBSE NEWS INFORMATION
 

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*SBSE News* is published quarterly by the Society of Building Science Educators, a not-for-profit corporation. Material for publication should be submitted to Bruce Haglund, Editor, Department of Architecture, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-2451, phone 208-885-6781, fax 208-885-9428, e-mail <bhaglund@osprey.csv.uidaho.edu> before the first of March, June, September, or December. Membership and mailing list inquiries should be directed to Leonard Bachman, Secretary/Treasurer, University of Houston, College of Architecture, 4800 Calhoun, Houston, TX 77204, phone 713-743-2372. ■

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 SBSE SUMMER RETREAT—CYPRUS
 

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SBSE will offer an international research project 17–30 June as one of our 1996 Summer Retreats. The objective of this trip is to begin investigating courtyard houses in different parts of the world and building protocols that link climatic response to house form and use. The courtyard house is both an ancient housing type and an interesting climate-responsive strategy. During this trip to Istanbul, Turkey, and North Cyprus we will begin to formulate answers to the following questions:

1. Can a series of patterns be established for the courtyard house that link quantifiable climatic responses to the social and formal constructs that govern their design?
2. What are the measurable consequences of the courtyard on the ambient temperatures and relative humidity levels in the house?
3. What is the relationship of the courtyard to the social occupancy of the house? How does this pattern relate to the climatic conditions established by the courtyard?
4. What is the impact of the courtyard on the form of the house, its organization, construction, formal patterns, the street, and the city in general?
5. What are the major historic benchmarks in the development of this particular courtyard house? How did the form of the house develop in relation to historic events?

A series of investigations of courtyard houses in different locales and different cultures will address a major architectural dilemma concerning climate-responsive design. One position, represented in the work of James Marston Fitch, contends that architectural responses to climate are, or ought to be, deterministic—maintaining that effective mechanical responses to climatic stress represent good architectural responses to these problems and that this effectiveness has been the primary variable in the development of many historic architectural forms. A second position, articulated by Amos Rapoport in *House, Form, and Culture*, maintains that a house is primarily a social entity. From this perspective, the mechanisms of climate control are potential modifiers, but not prime causes, of specific house forms. A third position sees architecture as neither the result of mechanical or cultural determinism, but as a symbolic vocabulary of forms developed in response to how humans envision inhabiting a natural and social context. This perspective would claim that a transcendent response to habitation has evolved over human history and is coded and transmitted in the form of buildings.

*[This jargon is, no doubt, satire.—ed.]*

Each position represents a current hypothesis which includes the role of climate in the development of architectural form. Courtyard houses, an old and ubiquitous form of habitation, exist over a broad range of climates and cultures. Documentation of houses in different cultures and climates will provide a test for each of these hypotheses. As research concerning the relationship of form to climate and culture is pursued, a position might be put forth considering the accuracy of each hypothesis and/or new hypotheses might emerge.

Fatih Rifki of North Carolina State University is planning logistics for this trip. He estimates that it will cost \$2000–2500, including airfare from the East Coast of the U.S.. Participants will assemble in Istanbul, Turkey, on Tuesday, June 18 (after an overnight transatlantic flight from the U.S.) and will spend the next 4 days with Istanbul Technical University architecture faculty and students in workshops, seminars, and sightseeing. The group will then fly to North Cyprus on June 22 for the courtyard studies. Local universities on the island will host the group. The program will end on June 30. Logistic difficulties will limit the number of participants to 12–14. (If you want to familiarize yourself with Turkey and North Cyprus checkout <<http://www.turkey.org/turkey>>.)

John Reynolds, University of Oregon, and Lance Lavine, University of Minnesota, are organizing the research and documentation strategies for the trip. As is common with SBSE activities, our goal is to produce a jointly-authored document after the trip.

If you are interested in joining us or need more information, please contact Fatih Rifki at 919-515-8319. As this trip will be more complex than previous summer workshops, we ask that you respond with a one-page letter of interest by January 15, 1996, to Fatih Rifki; School of Design; North Carolina State University; Raleigh, NC 27695. Participants will be selected on the basis of the letter of interest and will be notified by February 15 in order to allow ample time to secure funding and reservations for their travels. ■

—Lance Lavine, John Reynolds, Fatih Rifki

## SBSE SUMMER RETREAT—POMONA

**Teaching, Architecture, and Ecology.** The domestic SBSE Summer Retreat will be held Wednesday, June 19 to Sunday, June 23, 1996, at the Center for Regenerative Studies at Cal Poly in Pomona, California. The center was designed as a demonstration project to explore the interactions between people and regenerative technologies and practices. The 16-acre site is located on the Cal Poly campus. Approximately 20 residents live and study at the center. Research and education address ecological issues related to energy, shelter, water, food, waste, and agriculture. Our retreat will focus on the opportunities, challenges, and implications of integrating ecological concerns in architectural curricula. The center and the educational concepts embodied in it will serve as a point-of-departure for exploring new pedagogy related to ecological curricula. Many architectural programs throughout the country are developing new courses (and revising old courses) to address issues related to sustainable design, ecology, and the environment. It is timely to reflect on the ways in which these topics challenge not only “what we teach,” but also “how we teach.” This retreat (retreat: a quiet or secure place, a refuge) is intended as a forum to share current approaches to teaching and to consider new opportunities and models for teaching.

It is critical that the retreat be housed at the center, which will provide a living laboratory for investigation of new methods of teaching, research, and living. The retreat will be comprised of a series of seminars, working sessions, and local field trips to buildings which embody ecological design theory and practice. The seminars will be directed by those instrumental in conceiving and realizing the educational objectives of the Center for Regenerative Studies and will stimulate new ways of considering ecological education and challenge current pedagogical models. The field trips are intended to enhance our understanding of current practice and to enrich our case studies for teaching. Murray Milne will also hold an evening working session (for feedback and brainstorming) on his proposal for an “Inter-University” offering a doctorate in building science.

For five days, we will immerse ourselves in a built environment based on the concepts and practice of ecological living. This experience will be a rare (and undoubtedly eye-opening) opportunity to monitor the resources and energy we consume in daily living. All housing will be provided at the center (accommodations for subgroups of approximately 2–4 people). Cooking responsibilities will be shared by SBSE members (with lots of good, healthful, environmentally-sensible foods).

The center can accommodate 20 residents (we can probably squeeze in a couple of cots if needed). Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis, closed when the 20 positions are filled. Please send a brief statement of interest with your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address to: Mary Guzowski; Department of Architecture; University of Minnesota; 89 Church St. SE; Minneapolis, MN 55455. For the retreat, each participant will be asked to prepare a brief presentation on their thoughts and experiences related to the opportunities and challenges of integrating ecological concerns in architectural curricula.

The cost of the retreat is still tentative; we estimate that the total for lodging, food, and field trips will be between \$150 and 200. Transportation costs to and from the retreat will be additional. At this time, no outside funding has been obtained for the retreat, so all expenses will be covered by the participants. If anyone has contacts or suggestions for potential funding to defray expenses, please contact any of the retreat coordinators.

Additional information on the retreat will be included in the next *SBSE News*. For general information contact any of the retreat coordinators: Mary Guzowski <guzow001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>, Margot McDonald <mcdonal@oboe.aix.calpoly.edu>, or Hofu Wu <hwu@csupomona.edu>. For more information on the Center for Regenerative Studies, see: John Tillman Lyle, *Regenerative Design for Sustainable Development* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1994). ■

—Mary Guzowski, Margot McDonald, Hofu Wu

## LETTERS [CONT.]

You are certainly welcome to use the scale-figure character cartoon in the *SBSE News*. I would be very flattered. You may have missed the cartoon of the old guy (this man really exists) who appeared in the July 1994 issue of *Record*, which you could use sometime as well.

I've always drawn cartoons. One of my favorites from college was a two-panel job with a little stick-figure student sitting at a drawing table. In the first panel he says, “On good days I think, ‘I can design as well as Mies, Corbu, even Philip Johnson!’” In the second panel he says, “but, on bad days I think, ‘Sure, but anyone could.’”

Now, regarding colorful words in my defense? How about *res ipsa loquitur*?

*Charles Linn, Architectural Record*

[I admit that I egged Charles on by admiring his cartoon, see below. Can anyone else out there draw funny? Charles, I owe you a chuckle—I'll relate my *Bhagwan* (and only) joke over a beer sometime.—ed.]



I received the latest copy of the *SBSE News* recently. You did a great job! Due to prior commitments this summer, I was unable to participate in any SBSE or related events. Compounded with all the crap that seems to be going on around here, it was a critical fix for me to be able to read about all the good things that are happening. Thanks for your efforts.

*David Lee Smith, Cincinnati*

[Is anyone else aware of waist-deep doo-doo? I use my snow shovel year-round.—ed.] ■

## ACADEMY TIMELINE

1995	Fall	Draft academy proposal
1996	Winter	Seek foundation funding
	Summer	Convocation 1: Develop structure at SBSE Retreat
	Fall	Secure foundation funding
1997	Winter	Run "test" design competitions
	Summer	Convocation 2: Formally found the Academy
	Fall	Teach first electronic class(es)
1998	Winter	Hold first formal design competitions
	Summer	Convocation 3: Evaluate student progress
1999	Winter	Exhibit design competition and dissertation work
	Summer	Convocation 4: Consider early graduation
2000	Winter	Design competitions and dissertation work
	Spring	Convocation 5: <b>Confer first degrees</b>

## JOB MART

### UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

The School of Architecture and Interior Design invites applications for two tenure-track assistant professor positions beginning in autumn 1996. The areas in which successful candidates will participate include environmental technology (lighting, acoustics, climatology, ecs) and computer-aided design. We are interested in candidates qualified to teach in both architecture and interior design. Applicants should hold advanced degrees in their areas of expertise and show promise of research/scholarship/creative work in architecture or interior design.

To apply, forward a statement of interest, curriculum vitae, names and addresses of three references, and evidence of teaching/scholarship/creative achievements to Faculty Search Committee; School of Architecture and Interior Design; University of Cincinnati; Cincinnati, OH 45221-0016. Consideration will begin on February 1, 1996, and will continue until the positions are filled. The University of Cincinnati is an affirmative action employer; women and minorities are strongly encouraged to apply.

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## ACADEMY OF BUILDING SCIENCE [CONT.]

### CURRICULUM

To be admitted, a student must be enrolled in an accredited master's program, or employed as a post-graduate within the program (i.e., as a teacher or researcher). The applicant shall have completed a basic professional architecture degree before beginning dissertation work. Admission would be a three-step process: (1) the applicant would enumerate prerequisites and identify his/her chair and dissertation topic; (2) the student would pass the required qualifying design competitions and the courses required to support each competition; (3) the dissertation proposal would be approved. Most of this preliminary work could be completed within the context of the home institution's master's degree program.

The time required should be at least two years, with at least one year beyond the minimum required for completion of the master's degree. A member of the faculty of the home institution must agree to serve as the applicant's dissertation committee chair. The applicant would secure at least two other members of the dissertation committee from other campuses and would communicate with them regularly as work progresses.

Instead of qualifying exams, the applicant must earn citations in a set of national design competitions, which test the integration of some aspect of building science in the context of an architectural design problem. The jury for these competitions would be drawn from the academy faculty. The criteria would be the architectural quality of the solution, its technical excellence, and successful integration. Honor awards could be granted to exceptional projects which would then serve as examples of commendable work. A number of courses would be offered nationally via electronic media (such as a course in support of each of the qualifying design competitions, experimental methods, a dialogue on critical issues to the profession, seminars on advanced specific topics in building science).

On completion of their dissertations, each student would present her/his work at the annual convocation before the board of regents. If the regents, meeting with the student's chair and committee members, decided to accept the dissertation, the degree certificate would be prepared and signed by all faculty and regents who wish to add their name to that particular student's diploma.

### FUNDING

It should not take a huge amount of money to create this kind of academy, certainly not when compared to starting a traditional school. This type of venture is one that a foundation could help start. It would probably take four or five years of initial funding in the range of \$100,000 to 250,000 per year. Eventually, most of the funds would come from student tuition, the admissions application fee, and competition entry fees. For many students much of the cost of tuition could be deferred as a partial scholarship. Eventually long-term foundation, institution, and corporate support would be sought.

The biggest, initial expense would be the cost of bringing everyone together at the annual convocation. Any financial compensation or honoraria for the faculty or the regents would be mostly symbolic; the true rewards would be in developing bright students, in working with someone who could also be your teaching or research assistant, in getting some important research work accomplished, in forging links with colleagues at other institutions, and in being part of a team that could make a difference to our profession and our society. ||



—Murray Milne

Murray Milne and other potential "Inter-University" faculty at Vital Signs.

## RESPONSES TO THE ACADEMY PROPOSAL

I want to thank you all. Lots of you had thoughtful comments. I have excerpted each of them below. If any of these ideas move the rest of you to add your own thoughts, now is the time. I will be incorporating many of your comments, or at least citing them as alternatives, for a presentation at the EAEE, the European Association for Architectural Education, *Doctorates in Architecture* conference that I have been invited to in Holland in February (I know nothing about them, do any of you?). I'll report what comes of my presentation at ASES, and I hope you all will join in a workshop on this proposal at the SBSE Summer Retreat in Pomona. Does anyone have leads on a foundation that might be interested in helping 'birth' this effort? It is an ambitious idea, but it just might lead to some fundamental changes in the practice of architecture.

—Murray <milne@ucla.edu>

There is emphasis throughout the proposal on raising the level of architectural services, which is a matter of implementation and application. While your proposed vehicle for doing so is a doctoral program (traditionally oriented toward research), I think you're onto the real problem. But, a doctorate is not likely to solve it because designers won't be interested in it. This dichotomy echoes a slight, but crucial, inconsistency in what you and SBSE do. Most of you are not teaching building SCIENCE; you're teaching the application of certain scientific discoveries and principles to architectural DESIGN. In fact, most of you are really superb teachers of design, concentrating on the design of the aspects of buildings that are related to energy and comfort. I contend that if teachers of structures and materials and methods of construction were as good at teaching architectural design as the SBSE crowd is, much of the problem that you address in this proposal would be solved. . . and the students would learn to be holistic, confident designers rather than pretentious, bluffing, stage-set designers.

Your enthusiasm and leadership are most welcome. But I would urge all of you to look to what you are already doing well in your own teaching as being the model that you need to promote within your school for the good of the profession.

—Ed Allen

I am very excited about the prospects of such a venture, and will do whatever I can to help. My best input may be in the area of educational requirements and administration. The program is such at Oklahoma State that it is unlikely that I would have a graduate student interested in participation, but I would welcome working with students from elsewhere. I am currently completing an Ed.D. in educational administration and have a wealth of information on organization, governance, and administration of educational programs.

Can students at institutions that only grant bachelor's degrees participate?

—Eric Angevine

Your stated objective “. . . distinct competitive advantage over traditionally trained. . .” is very powerful, but specifically what is missing from traditional education that the program would supply? One of my pet peeves is the inability of architects to creatively deal with the economic/finance/cost side of architecture. Because so many decisions are based on economic criteria, architects lacking economic awareness relinquish power during the design process.

The insistence on design training and a professional degree are critical if we wish to distinguish this program from one in engineering. We must retain our architect's encompassing view while increasing the level of sophistication.

—Charlie Brown

I have circulated your ideas through informal graduate committee discussions here, and they were very well received. What is particularly attractive about your proposal is that it allows smaller programs, such as ours, with limited resources to offer this type of focused education and access to the best faculty resources available.

We are trying to define what we do best. Although technology is not ignored, it is fairly obvious that we don't have enough resources to offer the few interested students what they really need. The academy would allow us to focus on some design approach without eliminating faculty and students with interests in technology. We are ready to provide the physical resources required to support this program.

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## AVAILABLE

### NEW PUBS FROM LRC

A new *DELTA Portfolio*, third in the series, has hit the streets. It features a case study of an adaptive reuse office building in Syracuse, New York. [What a publication!—ed.] Also new are the second edition of the *Lighting Features* newsletter, and *Specifier Reports* on “CFL Downlights and Screwbase Compact Fluorescent Lamp Products”. Contact Judy Block; Lighting Research Center; RPI; Troy, NY 12180; phone 518-276-8716.

### FREE SOFTDESK ENERGY SOFTWARE

Softdesk *Energy* is part of the US DOE Design Tools Program. It was developed by Softdesk with Pacific Northwest Laboratory and the University of Oregon under a DOE-sponsored Collaborative Research and Development Agreement. In the spirit of this joint project, Softdesk is offering the software free to all registered customers of Softdesk *Auto-Architect* or *Building Base* software. Contact Softdesk Corporate Headquarters; 7 Liberty Hill Rd.; Henniker, NH 03242; phone 603-428-3199; fax 603-428-7901.

### ARCC CONFERENCE

The Architectural Research Centers Consortium (ARCC) has announced its Spring Conference, *Applied Research in Architecture*, to be held in Tucson, Arizona, April 26-27, 1996. The following themes will be explored: research in and with practice; research with and within industry; research in service to the community; research in education. Abstracts for papers addressing these issues will be accepted until February 1, 1996. Contact Dean Robert Hershberger; College of Architecture; The University of Arizona; Tucson, AZ 85721; phone (602-621-6751) for more information on submitting a paper or attending the conference. ■

## JOB MART [CONT.]

## VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC

invites applications for a faculty position in Building Science. The successful candidate will be part of an educational community where the integration of theory, design, and technology is understood as vital to architectural knowledge. Candidates should be able to collaborate in the design studio/lecture environment by offering expertise in one or more of the following areas: structures, environment and energy systems, lighting, acoustics, human factors, and indoor air quality. To assist with the pursuit of research the college operates the recently completed Research and Demonstration Facility. Specific resources include: comprehensive workshops, daylighting dome, low-velocity wind tunnel, thermal test cells, and the full array of sensors and data acquisition systems to monitor environmental conditions. Also available are extensive shop facilities featuring computer-controlled cutting and Mac, IBM, and Silicon Graphics workstations. The college encourages those with doctoral degrees and/or architecture or engineering registration to apply.

The appointments begin August 1996. To be assured full consideration, a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and the names of three references should be sent before January 1, 1996. However, applications will be accepted until the positions are filled. Candidates should designate their specialty area and send applications to: Ronald W. Daniel, Head of Architecture; College of Architecture and Urban Studies; 202 Cowgill Hall; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Blacksburg, VA 24061-0205. Additional information about this position and the college can be found at the Web address: <http://www.arch.vt.edu>. Virginia Tech is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. ■

*“Frankly, the tent will be warm [on bright days], but people will be moving.”—I.M. Pei [Architectural Record, 11/95]*

Talking about the south-facing, low-E-glazed “tent” lobby of the new Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland.

## RESPONSES TO THE ACADEMY PROPOSAL [CONT.]

My questions relate to the inter-university relationships. Who confers the degree? How do we satisfy the local university requirements that, in fact, this work is doctoral calibre? Some level of accreditation is needed. Right now, Kent State does not have a Doctor of Architecture degree.

—Jack Kremers

I discussed your proposal with several academic colleagues in Canada and with a number of architects. They all thought that this idea is timely and must be implemented if we are to save the architectural profession. Many of them are interested in enrolling in the program. They realize the value of having access to 20 mentors from across North America. A graduate of the Academy could be called a Fellow.

The program must be done through distance education methods so the candidate can have access to all of his or her mentors, the most exciting part of the program. The candidate is encouraged (required?) to meet with the mentors, to discuss their ideas, to see their place of operation, and to examine the architecture in their region. A certain percentage of the mentors should be from other disciplines, i.e. engineering, medicine, chemistry, planning, etc.. We want a graduate who has holistic understanding and multi-disciplinary capabilities.

I encourage you to proceed with the Academy as soon as possible.

—Tang Lee

When you refer to all the senior people at all the schools—a natural question is “just how many people are you including?” Having such a number, even if approximate, should impress funding agencies—if it doesn’t alarm them about its size and, therefore, its manageability. . . . Time commitment. . . . “only a course or two”—over what period of time? One course is half my load; two are the entire load. Some recognition that this is likely to be a substantial commitment, and that volunteerism has a terribly short shelf-life, seems appropriate. . . . National Design Competitions, a great idea and also time consuming—but worth it.

I strongly agree with bringing everyone together once a year. E-mail goes only so far, and this real face-to-face interaction is crucial.

—John Reynolds

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## ECO-DESIGN ARTS CONFERENCE

The student-organized Holistic Options for Planet Earth Sustainability (HOPES) is planning its second annual conference, *Changing Paradigm, Changing Place*. The interdisciplinary group of University of Oregon students from architecture, landscape architecture, historic preservation, planning public policy and management, fine arts, and environmental studies assert that, “Our present ecological crisis requires solutions that are not only scientifically sound, but which speak to people’s cultural and spiritual needs. . . . Environmental designers, artists, and planners, in collaboration with larger communities, play a critical role in the understanding and integration of beauty, delight, and enchantment into regenerative design and sustainable technologies. We view the present need for change as an opportunity to re-form places to be more ecologically sound, aesthetically fulfilling, and indicative of our interdependence.”

Abstracts of 200–300 words are due by 5 p.m., Friday, January 19 in the HOPES office: HOPES; Lawrence Hall; School of Architecture and Allied Arts; 5249 University of Oregon; Eugene, OR 97403-5249. For more information, contact J.B. Harrington: 541-346-0719, <hopes@gladstone.uoregon.edu> or visit the WWW homepage <<http://gladstone.uoregon.edu/~hopes/>>. ■

## RESPONSES TO THE ACADEMY PROPOSAL [CONT.]

*A creative and visible* Board of Advisors could also be assembled. . . *We can also accept professional undergraduates in engineering.* . . Instead of qualifying exams, the applicant must earn citations in a set of national design competitions, . . . *I think two at most.*

. . . I am almost ready to start working on a web page for the new university. Good idea?

—*Marc Schiler*

I have quickly reviewed your proposal and find it intriguing, but also somewhat overwhelming. My immediate reaction is that one of the critical requirements would be to help establish a reasonable knowledge base from which the graduate students could move, but I am not certain how this goal might be achieved.

While I do need to think about this further, my first thoughts are that rather than initially push for the doctorate, which puts the whole process into the milieu of academe which has failed us, perhaps we should initially develop Fellowships in Building Science and concentrate on the benefits that one can gain from experience rather than competition through attainment of the degree.

—*David Lee Smith*

*[David Lee Smith also sent two papers addressing these problems— available from: David Lee Smith; School of Architecture and Interior Design; University of Cincinnati; Cincinnati, OH 45221-0016; phone 513-556-5291; fax 513-556-3288; <DAVID.SMITH@UC.EDU>-ed.]*

It certainly takes guts to be proposing this academy.

- You will need a home-base university. Will it be UCLA?
- I'm doubtful you will get quality academic time without compensation.

For me the doctorate makes sense to the extent that it "creates" an academic community. Virtual or not, we still have to sit under those groves or walk them as did Plato and Socrates in their academies. It is true that a small group of like-minded individuals can establish a mode of thinking, education, and practice.

Keep after your virtual academy. █

—*Don Watson*

## SBSE PEOPLE

★ SBSE has granted honorary membership to **Calvin and Hobbes**. However, Bill Watterson claims he will have penned the last strip as of December 31, 1995. We'll all miss the credence that Calvin has given to environmentally-responsive design.

✦ The University of Michigan has awarded a grant to **Kurt Rathmann** for *Reusing and Recycling Architectural Resources*, an educational resource package promoting the use of secondary resources by architects.

† The Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts awarded **Jonathan Reich** a grant to write a manuscript on the history and creative design legacy of Art Troutner, Trus-Joist® inventor and company co-founder. Troutner is arguably the most important, single figure in the development of wood technology. His work has changed forever the way that wood is thought of as a structural material and the forest is seen as a resource. The research will also result in the exhibition of Troutner's architectural design work and technical inventions.

★ **John Reynolds** was also awarded a grant by the Graham Foundation to continue his study of the aesthetic, social, and technical aspects of Hispanic courtyards. This grant will allow him, during his sabbatical year, to visit Colima, Mexico (where his courtyard investigations began 14 years ago) twice more (cold January, hot/humid June) and Cordoba, Spain, twice more (cold January and flowery May). He will be working on the manuscript for a book on courtyards, as well. █

## COVER GRILLS

Great shading devices designed by Will Bruder graced the October issue covers of both *Architecture* and *Architectural Record*. The discriminating environmental technology groupie will not be disappointed by the technical coverage of the passive and mechanical systems coverage of Will Bruder's buildings and others in both journals. Maybe this sustainable (regenerative?) architecture fad isn't so bad. █

## PV DESIGN COMPETITION

A Building-Integrated Photovoltaics design competition for architects and building design professionals has been launched. Materials are available now from AIA Research; Attn: BIPV Competition; 1735 New York Avenue NW; Washington, DC 20006. Entries are due March 18. Prizes totaling \$20,000 will be awarded and winning entries will be published and displayed. For more information, call Stephanie Vierra at AIA Research, phone 202-879-7752, fax 202-626-7425. █

*Shading sails from Bruder's Phoenix Public Library.*

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## SBSE DOES PEER REVIEW

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Nineteen members have responded to this spring's call for participation as potential SBSE peer reviewers. This group (12 professors, 4 associate professors, and 3 assistant professors) has volunteered to assist SBSE members wend their way through the tenure and promotion process. One SBSE member has used this service to-date, and another has made an inquiry.

It is especially gratifying to see the overwhelming response we have received from professors, representing their desire to serve as mentors for SBSE members—a relationship many of us find sorely lacking within our own institutions—or it may just signify a mellowing with age. In any case, if you are coming up for tenure or promotion, consider using the collected expertise of the SBSE Peer Review Team. If you would like to volunteer to serve as a peer reviewer and you misplaced or forgot to submit your response form, it's not too late. Contact Walter Grondzik (phone 904-599-3244; fax 904-599-3436; <gzik@polaris.net>) for more information. ■

—Walter Grondzik



*Terri Boake and Leonard Bachman "network" at the Vital Signs Training Session while others just gawk at the technological displays.*



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SPRING ISSUE SUBMITTAL DEADLINE—MARCH 1

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