

IDBE – the future



The IDBE course was initiated 22 years ago. The first part-time course in Cambridge, and the first masters course to be run by two departments, it has always been ahead of the curve and has encouraged various new initiatives. As a result there are now a number of new masters courses in the Department of Architecture and the Civil and Environmental Division of the Department of Engineering, as well as an increasing number of part-time masters courses across the University.

In response to this changing climate, the Departments of Engineering and Architecture have decided to undertake a major review of the course.

Rather than have new students starting during a transition period, the University General Board Education Committee has approved a request from the two Departments to suspend the IDBE for new admissions from 2016.

Current students, obviously, will continue with their programme through to completion, and will benefit from the expertise of the long-standing course team.

December course week

The theme of the week was Design for Use: clients, users and the design team. Speakers included Simon Foxell, Jane Wernick, Robin Nicholson, Bill Bordass and Ziona Strelitz. For the studio design project we looked at the proposed new building for the Engineering Department on the University's West Cambridge site. Key consultants have already been appointed for this, and they generously shared their design brief with us for IDBE teams to review and respond.

Student teams looked variously at masterplanning the site, aspirational architecture, low-carbon design, off-site construction, monitoring and sensing technologies, and adaptability & flexibility. Particular thanks are due to Perry Hooper of Nicholas Grimshaw, Simon Smith of Smith & Wallwork, Joel Gustafsson of Max Fordham, Andy Dunlop of AECOM, and Brian Williams of the University's Estates Division.

Arup Education Trust in collaboration with IDBE in South Africa

At the end of November, Hannah Baker, a PhD student in the Engineering Department, went to Johannesburg, South Africa to lead a workshop with undergraduate university students about her PhD topic: the decision to demolish or adapt existing buildings on brownfield sites.

Hannah was representing the University of Cambridge through a collaboration between IDBE and the Arup Education Trust (AET) in South Africa. The AET sponsors students from historically disadvantaged communities on courses related to the built environment through University.

The students were divided into different stakeholder groups. They identified and ranked criteria which they thought were important to their stakeholder group when deciding to demolish or retain existing buildings on a brownfield site. The Egoli Gas Works, a former industrial site in Johannesburg was used as the case study.



The students presented their findings and came to appreciate the difficulty in making decisions when different stakeholders have very different priorities! This prompted a lively and interactive discussion.

As part of the collaboration, IDBE look forward to welcoming Kwena Mabotsa, a final year student in Quantity Surveying from the University of Pretoria, for the April course week in Cambridge.

A big thank-you to Sue Snaddon, Trustee of the Arup Education Trust, South Africa, for organising the event and for the great photos!

IDBE-Laing O'Rourke Debate, Cambridge Union



The annual debate was held on 8th December with the motion 'This House believes competition is the best spur to innovation'. Proposers were Joanna Burton, Daniel McKie and Louise Lado-Byrnes, and the motion was opposed by Laura Hannigan, Conor Mullan and John Pelton.

Both sides articulated clear arguments, drawing their inspiration from the Industrial Revolution, the automotive and IT industries, right through to individual curiosity and creativity. There were excellent comments from the floor. The motion was defeated by 83 votes to 29. Many thanks to the speakers for an entertaining evening, to Adam Locke from LOR, and Cam Middleton for chairing.

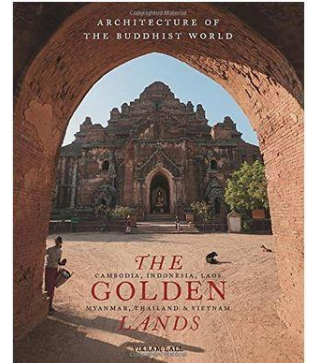
Student & Alumni news

Matt Cousins (Cohort 10) has published a second edition of the *Architect's Legal Pocket Book*. Matt says, 'Architecture is a high risk profession. Projects often go wrong and as a result, architects should have an understanding of their roles and responsibilities in practice. Architects can become liable through a lack of technical knowledge, a lack of understanding of the role of the architect and the Contract Administrator role. The Architect's Legal Pocketbook



provides a key summary of legal issues and is an easy to use reference book for architects and architectural students.'

Vikram Lall (Cohort 5) also has a book out. *Architecture of the Buddhist World - The Golden Lands* (1st edition, Sep 2014) is the first book in a groundbreaking new series exploring famous temples and sites from the Buddhist world from an architectural point of view. The Times of India says of the book, that Lall takes the reader on 'an insightful and informative journey of its evolution and adaptation through time and space'.



Vikram Lall is an award-winning architect, educator, author, and patron of the arts. He has more than 25 years of experience in architectural practice and consultancy and is the principal architect and partner of Lall & Associates.

Tugo Cheng (Cohort 20) won an honourable mention in the National Geographic Photo Contest 2015, selected from 13000 entries - a fantastic achievement! See photos below.

Photo 1: As the largest mountain range in Central Asia, Tian-shan ('sky-mountain' in Chinese), has one of the best collections of natural landscapes in the world and is seen by many as a paradise for outdoor adventures.

Thanks to the richness of sediments and the power of erosion by rivers flowing down the mountains, the north face of Tian-shan is carved into stunning plateaus and colourful canyons hundreds of meters deep, resulting in this surrealist painting in nature.

Photo 2: In the city of Harbin in northeast China, people commute across the Songhua River everyday on its frozen surface in winter, leaving a pattern of footsteps and other traces of human activity.

Photo 3: At the bottom of the Tian-shan canyon in Xinjiang, northwest China, a shepherd and his sheep cross the dry riverbed on their way home.

