

B2(E) Symposium

'Eternalness and Transience'

Under the banner "Eternalness or Transience", an international graduate colloquium was held in Edinburgh in September 2003. The hosts were the postgraduate community in the Department of Architecture at the University of Edinburgh. The distinguished guests were drawn from the "Graduiertenkolleg Kunstwissenschaft, Bauforschung, Denkmalpflege" (graduate school for art history, architectural history, and monument conservation), a research-driven collaboration established in Germany in 1996 between the University of Bamberg and the Technical University Berlin. Both on tangible measures like student numbers, research topics, and staff-student ratios, and in less tangible areas like research culture and embeddedness in comparable academic communities, the three departments in Bamberg, Berlin, and Edinburgh have much in common.

Nearly twenty short papers were delivered in the space of one day, ranging in their topics from seventeenth-century roof structures in Edinburgh to the conservation of post-war detached houses in Germany. Within the great diversity on display, larger unifying themes emerged, which included authenticity, the conservation of modernist buildings, and mutual relations with the Netherlands. A keynote lecture by the distinguished Edinburgh-based conservation architect James Simpson not only addressed the recent fire damage in the Old Town, but also offered our German guests a brisk and informative overview of the evolution of the wider Edinburgh cityscape. As the other bookend to the day, Iain Boyd Whyte gave a lecture on Karl Friedrich Schinkel's visit to Scotland in the summer of 1826. The offerings in the lecture hall were, themselves, sandwiched between tours of Edinburgh and Glasgow; the built world as the appropriate setting for architectural discourse.

Beyond the great pleasures of meeting new faces in the same old pubs, and of seeing one's own world through the eyes of visitors, what might be the benefits of such exchanges? At a personal level, the contact with others working on similar projects eases the sense of isolation that is the essential and inevitable mental condition of dissertation research and writing. While it may not aid the process, the contact assuredly lessens the pain. As a research vehicle, the collaboration brings tangible gains in areas of data gathering and methodology, when scholars working on cognate topics are brought together. This process was illustrated in the presentations given by John Lowrey on Scotland and the Netherlands, and by Gabri van Tussenbroek on the architectural relations between the Dutch Republic and Berlin-Brandenburg in the seventeenth century. In the broader, institutional context, contact across cultures promotes the questioning of local habits and prejudices by showing at first hand that there is always more than one way to approach research, its collation, writing-up, and publication. At all these levels, "Eternalness or Transience" must be judged a success.

Professor Iain Boyd Whyte
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Department of Architecture

Presentations

- 3. 9. 2003** **Wednesday**
 09.00 - 09.30 *Welcome address, introduction*
Prof. Iain Boyd Whyte and Dr. Gabri van Tussenbroek
 09.30 - 10.00 *'Key-note 'Edinburgh after the fire - how to proceed?'*
James Simpson
 10.00 - 10.20 *'Scotland and the Netherlands'*
John Lowrey
 10.20 - 10.40 *'The stable of Halkerston Lodge and Moray House - Roof architecture around 1630 in Edinburgh.'*
Thorsten Hanke
 10.40 - 11.00 *'Architectural relationships between Berlin-Brandenburg and the Dutch Republic in the 17th Century.'*
Dr. Gabri van Tussenbroek
 11.00 - 11.20 *'The Impact of British Culture on the Development of Prussian Neo-Classicism.'*
Alfred Hagemann
 11.20 - 11.40 Discussion
 11.40 - 12.00 *'Transcendence from the selected modern existence: primitivism and heritage in Le Corbusier's work in the 1930's.'*
Ming-Kang Liang
 12.00 - 12.20 *'Relicts of the fascist regime on Italian buildings or who is afraid of the fascio littorio?'*
Daniela Spiegel
 12.20 - 12.40 Discussion
 12.40 - 13.40 Lunch
 13.40 - 14.00 *'Prejudice against architectural modernism. Analysis of the logic of an anti-modern statement by way of the example of the book 'A vision of Britain' by HRH The Prince of Wales.'*
Roman Hillmann
 14.00 - 14.20 *'Real Nations vs. Imaginative communities; Authenticity as the criterion for Identity.'*
Vasiliki Kynourgiopoulou
 14.20 - 14.40 *'Contemplating a way forward - Postmodernism and Architectural Praxis.'*
Keith Ballantine
 14.40 - 15.00 Discussion
 15.00 - 15.30 Coffee break
 15.30 - 15.50 *'Conservation in Germany.'*
Biagia Bongiorno
 15.50 - 16.10 *'Integrated Urban Conservation'*
Ruxandra Stoica
 16.10 - 16.30 *'Single-family houses of the fifties and the preservation of monuments. Berlin as an example.'*
Dirk Dorsenmagen
 16.30 - 16.50 *'Post-war Detached Houses and their Conservation.'*
Thomas Steigenberger
 16.50 - 17.10 *'Conservation of the 20th Century built environment: the case study of Modern 'Housing in Edinburgh.'*
Chanen Munkong
 17.10 - 17.30 Discussion
 19.00 - 20.00 Dinner
 20.00 *'Schinkel in Scotland.'*
Prof. Iain Boyd Whyte
- 4.9.2003** **Thursday**
 09.00 - 09.20 *'James Joyce's Virtual Dublin'*
Ian Gun
 09.20 - 09.40 *'Generative codes and digital architecture Methods in Synthetic Construction'*
Jun-Young Heo
 09.40 - 10.00 *'A Phenomenological Study into Perception of "the Real" & "the Virtual" in Computer-mediated Interactive Environments'*
Aghlab Ismat Al-Attili
 10.00 - 10.20 Discussion
- Study Trips**
- 2.9.2003** **Tuesday**
 16.00 - 19.00 *Edinburgh City and University*
- 4.9.2003** **Thursday**
 12.00 - 21.00 *Glasgow The City of Charles Rennie Mackintosh*