

REPORT ON COLLOQUIUM OF / ON FREE FORM DESIGN

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On September 28th and 29th the first International Colloquium of Sub-Working Group Free Form Design (FFD) of Working Group 15 Structural Morphology, was held at and sponsored by the Delft University of Technology. It was the first meeting of the sub-working group FFD since its initiation was approved at the Executive Council of the IASS, meeting at the symposium in Bucharest in September 2005. The colloquium was organized by Andrew Borgart, Bige Tuncer and Martijn Veltkamp (all Delft University of Technology), Tuba Kocatürk (University of Salford) and Manfred Grohmann (University of Kassel / Bollinger und Grohmann).

The ambition of sub-working group FFD is to establish an international network, bringing together expertise and knowledge from both practice and research carried out in the interdisciplinary field of free-form design (complex geometry) in architecture, to discuss the most recent theories and applications of emergent (digital) technologies and processes in free-form architecture / engineering and production (digital means of free-form generation, analysis and fabrication technologies). The main focus is on the formal qualities of the emerging complex geometries and emerging working processes and the relations between the two in a multi-disciplinary framework.

The objective of the colloquium was to provide insight into the potential of design, engineering and production processes of free-form designs, as well as their limitations, as to provide guidance for the wider practice and research community for future development and research in the field of free-form design. To this aim the organizers of the international colloquium brought together intellectuals and practitioners in the field of architecture, engineering, manufacturing and academics in the field of free-form design, to debate the direction of technologies and practices that are deemed as influential in setting the agenda for future research, education and practice.

The colloquium was organized as a critical discourse in three moderated topic related sessions on: the human context (the cultural, economical and political setting), technological opportunities and emerging knowledge (research, education and practice). The participants were asked to write a position abstract to be debated in one of the topic related sessions. In a closing moderated sessions three “confrontation” were organized each between two participants with leading opposing positions on one of the three topics. In February 2008 the book of the colloquium with the revised position papers by the participants and additional invited articles by authors will be published. The next FFD meeting is to be scheduled in 2008.

design | technology | process | culture | politics | economics | ethics

The First International Colloquium of
Free Form Design
www.ffd.bk.tudelft.nl

Thursday September 28, 2006 Delft School of Design
Faculty of Architecture
Berlageweg 1, Delft

Friday September 29, 2006 Cultural Centre
Delft University of Technology
Meskeweg 10, Delft
The Netherlands

Sub-Working Group FFD of Working Group 15 "Structural Morphology" of the International Association for Shell and Spatial Structures (IASS)

Moderators

Arie Graafland
Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands

Deborah Hauptmann
Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands

Michael Weinstock
Architectural Association, UK

Invited Speakers

Robert Aish, Bentley Systems, USA
Larry Barrow, Mississippi University, USA
Annette Bögle, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany
Peter Brandon, University of Salford, UK
Matias del Campo, Universität für Angewandte Kunst Wien, Austria
Cristiano Ceccato, Gethy Technologies, USA
Jeroen Coenders, Arup Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Mick Eekhout, Octatube / Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands
Jalal El-Ali, Büro Happold London, UK
Manfred Grohmann, Bollinger+Grohmann / Universität Kassel, Germany
Thorsten Helbig, Knippers Helbig, Germany
Lars Hesselgren, KPF London, UK
Sawako Kajima, AKT London, UK
Hanif Kara, AKT London, UK
Axel Kilian, MIT School of Architecture, USA
Harald Kloft, OSD-Office for Structural Design / TU Kaiserslautern, Germany
Branko Kolarevic, Ball State University, USA
Andrew Kudless, Ohio State University, USA
Massimo Majowiecki, University of Venice / Studio Tecnico Majowiecki, Italy
René Motro, Montpellier University, France
Kas Oosterhuis, ONL / Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands
Rivka Oxman, Technion University, Israel
Arno Prink, Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands
Jaime Sanchez-Avarex, MERO-ESD International, Germany
Sevil Sariyildiz, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands
Larry Sass, MIT School of Architecture, USA
Fabian Scheurer, ETH Zürich, Switzerland
Chiara Silvestri, Montpellier University, France
Alexander Stahr, Bauhaus Universität Weimar, Germany

For registration and
detailed information, see
www.ffd.bk.tudelft.nl