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The purpose of the project was to utilise the students’ design skills to choreograph an event to explore and analyse the site, and connect with local interest groups.

Inspired by the lantern festivals held by students at the Bauhaus School of Art, the event started with a giant game of ‘infection’ where one’s lantern was lit after meeting another lantern bearer. The meadow soon became illuminated and transformed into a game of ‘snake’, with each individual walking through the meadow joining the procession. Neighbours in the adjacent hospitals, houses, golf clubs and care homes were invited making the event a fantastic opportunity for students to learn more about Warneford Meadow and the people who use it. The lanterns sparked great interest with passers-by who approached students to ask lots of interesting questions about the project. Community newsletters also got involved by tweeting about the festival on the day. Students were delighted when the Friends of Warneford Meadow later invited them to take part in their site clear-up day.

Jane Anderson, Programme Lead for Undergraduate Architecture commented describing the project ‘one of the most fun’ they’ve done. She commended the students and local residents for ‘braving the mud with 100 lanterns, weaving through the meadow and lighting it up on a cold winter’s evening.’
Dear Alumni and Friends

Word of mouth and reputation is the best marketing the school can have. This is achieved through the strong bond between the school and our graduates. Our alumni give help and support in various forms; scholarships, mentoring and lecturing, employing our high quality students and collaboration on research, to name just a few. For all your support we are ever grateful – thank you.

I also have to thank: Ibstock Brick Limited, Chetwoods Architects, Assael Architecture, Scott Brownrigg and ADAM Architecture for their brilliant support to the school.

Over the past year we have seen some great changes and celebrated a mass of achievements. In June 2012, we held the 85th anniversary of the School of Architecture which had a fantastic attendance of over 200 people. Following that, in September, we expanded the school into the new Abercrombie extension. It found its rightful place on the cover of the RIBA Journal in which it received high praise. Our students, staff and alumni have also been involved with over 200 events, won prestigious awards like the Gus Astley Prize and participated in five live projects including a lantern festival in Warneford Meadow. The school is as strong as ever.

Do please come and visit us to see the new extension if you can and if you haven’t already, join the Oxford Brookes Alumni network and our alumni association Doric Club and follow our social media sites, so we can keep you up to speed on the fantastic work of our staff and students. I also welcome emails on your own success. Hearing your journey after University is always inspiring to both myself and students and ensures the ‘can do’ culture continues to permeate the school.

Thank you once again, your support and help is invaluable and adds a dimension to the school which makes us stronger than ever.

Matt Gaskin
Head of the School of Architecture

MArchD Students Win Assael Bursary

This year the Assael Bursary was won jointly by MArchD (Applied Design in Architecture) students Lucy Ottewell and Katie Shute who are each studying Architecture and Sustainable Building: Performance and Design and Architecture with Development and Emergency Practice. They applied for the bursary together feeling, ‘collaborative working is a better reflection of architectural practice.’

The Assael Bursary was established by John Assael with the intended purpose of promoting research which could benefit the practice of architecture. The committee awards one or two bursaries each year amounting to a total value of £1,500. Lucy and Katie plan to research the integration of private and affordable housing. Using Bromley-by-Bow as a case study, they will research whether or not a mixed tenure approach could have a positive social and economic impact on all residents and tenures, and the resultant integration of ethnicity, religion, income band and culture. The purpose of the research is to establish whether mixed tenure can result in a ‘Sustainable Mixed Community.’

Lucy said, “We are very excited about winning the bursary and look forward to commencing the research. We feel that this is a great opportunity to integrate our academic studies with professional practice, and hope to contribute towards the current dialogue on the integration between private and affordable housing”.

Alumni Newsletter
NEW ABERCROMBIE EXTENSION OPENS TO STUDENTS

September saw the completion of the new Abercrombie extension marking the first stage in the £132m redevelopment of the Headington Campus. The development at the Gipsy Lane site modernises the existing Abercrombie building and houses study and learning spaces, connected by glass walkways spanning an expansive full-height atrium. This building is particularly focused on the needs of our built environment students. The open-plan work areas are spread across four floors, with the aim to encourage close working, collaboration and idea sharing between disciplines and year groups.

Jayson Quayle, Student Representative for the School of Architecture comments, “I find the new Abercrombie extension a great building both architecturally and technically. With access to a new café, the Department of Planning and Department of Real Estate and Construction we are lucky to have such a building.”

The Abercrombie extension represents just 20% of the total redevelopment, which will provide new library, teaching and catering facilities as well as a purpose-built home for Student Central, the Careers Centre and the Students’ Union.

WINNING PAVILION DESIGN ANNOUNCED FOR THE PIAZZA

The winning design has been announced for an installation which will form part of the public face of Oxford Brookes’ new campus development. A special event was held in December in the new Abercrombie extension to celebrate the submissions made by second and third year students, for the competition to produce a design for the new piazza on Headington Campus.

The winning entry, titled The Rain Pavilion, was created by architecture students Alex Horsmann and Charlotte Birch. The design was created to celebrate rain and different sections of the pavilion will reflect how the rainfall sounds in different ways. Commenting on their winning submissions, Charlotte Birch said, “We’re both really surprised and really happy. Lots of the work was of a really high standard.”

The competition was part of the Pavilion Project initiative which was a collaborative project between Oxford Brookes’ Art and Architecture Departments and the Capital Projects team. Vice-Chancellor Professor Janet Beer, who presented awards to the winning students, commented, “I hope that this marks the first of many collaborations between students in art and students in architecture as I think it is a fantastic interdisciplinary initiative.”

The next phase will be to develop The Rain Pavilion – this will again involve students and provide further valuable opportunities to gain new skills and experience.
RIBA PUBLISHES A PRESTIGIOUS REVIEW OF THE NEW ABERCROMBIE BUILDING

The Royal Institute of British Architects has reviewed the new Abercrombie building, and is impressed by its promising and considerable presence.

The following points discussed are what the RIBA review highlighted as majorly positive. Design Engine, a Winchester based practice, won the contract for the development of a new entrance building against serious competition. They proposed that you don’t just want a new building here and a new building there, instead you need to get demolishing, and go back to first principles. The original campus was designed in 1955 by city architect EG Chandler, and defined generous courtyards. Design Engine’s proposal returned to the 1950s plan and re-energised it with new interlocking buildings and a large entrance piazza.

The RIBA review concludes, “Design Engine is responding not only to the inherited built condition, but to the other known condition of high quality teaching and engaged students. If the original client and architect – Brookes and Chandler – could see the way their creation is turning out, I’d reckon they’d be quite satisfied.”

To read the full review: www.ribajournal.com/pages/nov_critique_oxford_brookes_194137.cfm

Photography taken by alumnus Robert Boltman ’11
GRADUATE PROFILE

Robert Boltman ’11
Graduated in BA Architecture; works at Holder Mathias Architects.

Before you came to Brookes what did you study and where?
I previously completed a Computer Science degree at Southampton University and worked as an IT consultant, before deciding on a career change and to retrain as an architect.

What made you choose Brookes as a place to study?
The combination of the course’s excellent reputation along with its slight bias towards art vs engineering really attracted me to Brookes. Having already worked in an engineering environment, I felt that this approach would help round out my skills.

What did you think of the course while you were studying here?
I enjoyed the course and felt it had a good balance to it. The integration of the various modules was good, as was the encouragement to use CAD and 3D design in the second and third years, which greatly enhances your employability to architectural practices.

What are the best bits of studying at Brookes?
The enthusiasm of the staff and the atmosphere in the studios was great! The vertical units were also an excellent feature, mixing the varying perspectives of second and third years. The field trips organised for each year really enabled students to bond with each other and share knowledge. They also fuelled the inspiration for my architectural photography portfolio.

After graduating from Brookes what were the next steps for your career and where are you working now?
After graduating I applied for positions at a number of architectural practices and eventually accepted a job at Holder Mathias Architects in Cardiff. I also continued to develop my architectural photography and now have this as another strand to my career; I was fortunately awarded an Associateship by the Royal Photographic Society and since then have received a number of commissions.

In December, I had the great opportunity to return to Oxford Brookes to photograph the new Abercrombie extension. This gave me the chance to see the brilliant new studio spaces at the same time!

What advice do you have for others?
Pace yourself, and try and maintain a sense of perspective, especially in the run up to crits. Concentrate on the images and parts of the project that will really move it forward, and avoid the temptation to pull all-nighters (they’re counter-productive in the end).

The best thing about studying at Brookes was the enthusiasm of the staff. The atmosphere in the studios was great.
HAPPY 85TH BIRTHDAY DORIC CLUB AND THE OXFORD SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

The alumni association, Doric Club and the Oxford School of Architecture celebrated its 85th Birthday on 1 June last year at the Ashmolean Museum.

186 Dorians arrived from all over the world, including 16 members from the Norwegian Doric Club. The club was formed in 1927 when three enthusiastic young architects decided that Oxford needed a School of Architecture. They approached the Principal of the then School of Technology, Arts and Sciences – John Henry Brookes – who agreed to help and soon after this the Oxford School of Architecture was born.

The 85th reunion occurred over two days with other events including a tour of the end of year exhibition at the School of Architecture, and a glimpse of the new Abercrombie building led by Matt Gaskin. The celebration also welcomed the new Doric Club President, John Assael ’75 and the new Treasurer Jo Burch ’84.


SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE TO HOLD A SECOND INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL IN SUPINO

Following the success of last year’s International Summer School project, the School of Architecture at Oxford Brookes is collaborating with the Architects Association, Italy and the Department of Architecture at Girne American University, Cyprus to investigate the role the small town of Supino in Italy can or cannot play within the global context.

The aim of this second summer school is to follow and build on the research and emerging concepts that were developed last year. Last year’s research, also about Supino, involved speculative design interventions and a series of social mapping. Within the context of the current capitalist crisis, this year’s group will further explore specific architectural and urban potentials of small towns which exist on the periphery of a major European historical city.

Successful applicants will form into three small teams and will be asked to address a specific theme under the title of contested space. The three themes include: traces and signatures, wrapping and breathing and cultural identity. Students will then look at how architectural and urban forms and spaces are able to respond.

During the seven day workshop, students will be paying particular attention on fieldwork research, mapping techniques, design testing, representation methods and close participation with the local community. The final outcomes will be a small exhibition of summer school work to be held locally in Supino, along with an online pdf publication about the workshop. At the end of the workshop each participant will have a body of research and design work plus a collective online publication from the summer school to include in their portfolio when applying for architectural jobs or postgraduate courses.

For more information about the Summer School visit architecturesummerschool.yolasite.com
ALUMNA WINS RIBA BURSARY FOR INDIAN SCHOOL DESIGN PROJECT

The 2012 RIBA ICE McAslan Bursary was awarded to architect Nicola Antaki ’01 to deliver an ingenious school design project in India. The annual bursary is administered by the RIBA and funded by John McAslan + Partners to support environmental and community projects in the UK and abroad.

J ohn McAslan, chairman of John McAslan + Partners explained that the “submissions for this year’s RIBA ICE McAslan Bursary had been very impressive. The winning entry, ‘Healthier Learning Spaces for Municipal Schools in Mumbai’ by Nicola Antaki stood out due to its breadth of vision and ingenuity, tackling important social, cultural and environmental issues in a major global city.”

The bursary of £7,500 will foster Nicola’s project which will develop affordable and reproducible 1:1 prototypes of designs for spaces that will help children to learn and play. It will also demonstrate the positive contribution a well-designed learning environment can make.

The first project to be supported through Nicola’s bursary will be the development of a roof garden at Lovegrove School in Mumbai. The aim is to illustrate to the local government how minimal investment in the school environment can deliver inspirational teaching resources and encourage improvements in the children’s health, school attendance and attainment.

Nicola commented that the “bursary will offer an invaluable opportunity to make this live design-led research project happen. Its aim is to improve educational spaces in Mumbai through design, whilst developing prototypes that will hopefully be re-usable in similar environments.”

Nicola’s vision has gained wide praise already, with RIBA President, Angela Brady who expressed delight in supporting her “socially responsive and responsible approach to architecture.” ICE President, Professor Barry Clarke also described Nicola as a “worthy recipient of the bursary. Hopefully it will help her to progress the project and convince others of its benefits.”

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CONSUMING THE EXOTIC EXHIBITION AT THE OLD FIRE STATION

Postgraduate architecture students held a captivating exhibition at the Old Fire Station in March, titled ‘Consuming the Exotic’.

The exhibition concentrated on questioning the environmental consequences of our fixation with experiencing foreign culture. It drew on ideas from a visit to Istanbul and Cappadocia, Turkey made by 17 young Architecture students in November of last year.

Andrew Dawson, from Original Field of Architecture Ltd and supervisor of the exhibition commented that, “Consuming the Exotic is an exhibition that asks us all to consider the role of architecture in a changing world of increased cultural consumption.”

The exhibition showcased photography and short videos taken during the students’ field visit. The material on display explored the architecture, patterns, people and carpet designs of Turkey, as well as souvenirs purchased in Istanbul that mark the current tension between craftsmanship and globalised mass production.

As a result of the trip and exhibition, our architecture students collaborated with Year 3 and 4 students from East Oxford Primary School in the Gallery space in February. Students worked with the children to produce handmade artworks responding to the study of cultural patterns and colours in Turkish life and architecture. The artefacts produced by the children were also displayed as part of the exhibition.

CULTIVATING ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITIES IN PALESTINE

In January students from Design Studio 4, the master’s architecture studio, spent a week in the village of Beit Iksa, West Bank, Palestine for a series of collaborative workshops to expand their research of resource issues in the area. The unique programme of collaboration involved the community of Beit Iksa, their village council, NG Architects, the Palestinian NGO RIWAQ and Oxford Brookes MArchD students from Design Studio 4.

The aim of the workshops was to offer a space to explore affordable principles that can further enhance living conditions in Palestine. With the co-operation of the community, the unit created a series of urban interventions which would act as discussion points, presenting alternative resource possibilities available to Palestinians in Beit Iksa.

RIWAQ, NG Architects, the Beik Ikza community and their village council worked together with students from Oxford Brookes University to build temporary elements and devices for local residents to use in public spaces. These included a rammed-earth wall, a water filtration device which can be used for domestic purposes to clean water, a bird ‘shading’ structure and an energy producing bike that converts physical movement into lighting and sound elements.

The interventions created dialogues about the use of earth as a construction material, the recycling of water and the issue of biodiversity.

To read more about Design Studio 4’s workshops in Beit Iksa visit their blog www.dsfour.blogspot.co.uk

From left: Rory O’Brien, John Quinn, Ben Gilada, Alex Gaisie-Walker, Chris Green
Oxford Brookes Alumni Set To Turn Over £5,000,000 In 2013

Architecture and real estate alumni, Richard Phillips ’11 and Tim Bailey ’08, have invested in a construction company, adding yet more services to their successful company B38 Group. Set up just 18 months ago, their nationwide property company is set to turn over an impressive £5,000,000 by the end of the year.

The group, which specialises in commercial property, has gone from strength to strength. It already has a substantial list of blue chip clients which include Nationwide Building Society, BT Plc and Audi Volkswagen.

The name B38 originates from the student house Tim and Richard lived in in Oxford. This became their first renovation project (38 Bartlemas Road) and it is the umbrella brand under which Richard and Tim can “vertically integrate businesses in the property world”. Since the creation of the group they have launched ventures in; Facilities Management, Construction, Agency, Property Software, Retail and Industrial Development and Capital Investment.

When asked for the reasons behind the acquisition of the construction company Richard explains it was because many of their clients were asking for bigger projects to be undertaken. However, they had already built up a solid pipeline of commercial projects, including the design and build of three industrial warehouses and 12 office buildings on a new business park. Rather than starting a new business to accommodate these requests, the business partners decided it would be better to acquire another company with “experienced people, full accreditations and trading history to bolster the size of the group”. This move they hope, will achieve the anticipated group turnover of £5,000,000 by the end of 2013.

To ensure their client list is rounded and diverse, Richard and Tim also work to achieve a number of contracts with smaller companies, one of which is the Handmade Burger Company. Other plans for the group include developing care homes and student accommodation in the South in areas such as Oxford and London. The group already has offices in Wakefield, Swindon and the Midlands but the pair are currently looking for appropriate space in central London for a new office, this will allow them to have good national coverage.

When reflecting on his time at Brookes Richard states, “studying at Brookes gave me the motivation to think and challenge myself and my own perceptions of the built environment. It gave me the opportunity to study around the subjects that interested me most but I was always keen to make things happen and get out there and do it for myself.”

For more information about B38 Group visit www.b38group.com
IARD GRADUATE WINS PRESTIGIOUS 2012 GUS ASTLEY PRIZE

IARD (International Architectural Regeneration and Development) graduate Aimee Felton ’11 was awarded the 2012 Gus Astley prize by the Institute of Historic Building Conservation for her dissertation exploring the maintenance of historic buildings.

The IHBC’s Annual Gus Astley Student Award is awarded for outstanding work and is presented as part of a taught course in the UK. Aimee, who is currently working at Julian Harrap’s leading architectural conservation practice, will receive a £300 cash prize and a free place at the IHBC’s 2013 Annual School which will be taking place in Carlisle with ‘heritage skills’ as its main theme.

Aimee explained that she was both “delighted and honoured” to be recognised by the IHBC for the work she had undertaken at Oxford Brookes. Winning the award “recognises what is essentially a mundane topic and reaffirms the necessity for further research to be undertaken in the area of maintenance as a whole”. With a want to extend her University theoretical work into the practical work she executes in the studio, Aimee anticipates her achievement will supply her with the impetus to further enrich her dissertation into a working manual.

Jonathan Bassindale, tutor at Oxford Brookes for the winning essay, said, “Aimee’s writing is of a very high standard: fluent, articulate and accurate. This was an excellent study which makes a valid contribution to research in this area.”

SHELTER PROTOTYPE BUILT AT GIPSY LANE

A prototype building to house people who have lost homes in a disaster has been built on the Gipsy Lane site. The aim is to use the building as a research project to help understand how to construct better post-disaster shelters.

The project was instigated by shelter specialist and builder Jamie Richardson, a visiting lecturer on the Brookes Shelter after Disaster Postgraduate Certificate. It was designed by Shelter after Disaster alumna Jemma Houston ’12 and current Brookes students helped to build it.

The building design is typical in size and layout to those built as homes after disasters such as in Haiti and other countries. Students will investigate how the structure could be further improved through assessing the assembly of the building and proposing alterations to make it more resistant to specific hazards such as earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and cyclones.

Charles Parrack, Senior Lecturer in Construction Technology and Subject Coordinator, commented, “It is great to give our students an opportunity to work on a real construction project, with real world implications. We hope this research will contribute to better post disaster shelter practice.”

For more information on the project or on the Brookes Shelter after Disaster course please contact Charles Parrack on cparrack@brookes.ac.uk
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