

Press release
June 2011

PG Bison 1.618 Competition announces new sponsorship

The PG Bison 1.618 competition continually encourages creative excellence and design and PG Bison (through its Fresh new colour range) announces a part sponsorship of the Digital Constructions workshop for architects.

Digital Constructions**Workshop in Digital Design and Fabrication Strategies in Architecture****Johannesburg, South Africa, 08 - 17 July 2011****Facilitator:****Hugh Fraser** [Glass South Africa]**Tutors:****Kristof Crolla** [University of Hong Kong]**Jeroen van Ameijde** [Architectural Association, London]**Partners**

PG Bison

Cement and Concrete Institute

University of the Witwatersrand

Hong Kong University

Architectural Association

Context

As technological breakthroughs have resulted in paradigm shifts in design practice in the past, the current revolution caused by innovations in digital design and fabrication technologies is radically transforming methods of architectural production today.

Not only are increasingly sophisticated digital fabrication procedures allowing for the conception and construction of projects of unforeseen complexity, architects and researchers are beginning to speculate on new types of design-build scenarios, using new technologies for projects and contexts that were previously unaddressed.

Introduction

'Digital Constructions' is an intensive, ten-day visiting school programme organised through a collaboration of the University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg), the University of Hong Kong and the Architectural Association (London). Organised in collaboration with PG Bison and Glass South Africa, the programme will include lectures, tutorials and a workshop which is aimed at the design and construction of innovative urban dwelling prototypes.



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The workshop will offer participants the unique opportunity to familiarise themselves with the most current digital design and fabrication technologies, as well as with their implementation into the challenging context of Johannesburg's social housing. As outcomes the workshop aims to construct full-scale working prototypes of innovative housing solutions on a live site within the city.

Workshop Structure

Starting with software tutorials and exercises in digital design and fabrication processes, the programme will introduce participants to methods for creating fabrication-based, open-ended design systems. The focus is particular on the development of rule-based, prototypical structures that have the capacity to incorporate programmatic and site-specific performance criteria.

Participation within the workshop will be through team work, combining design development and project management to implement an integrated file to factory workflow. A number of public presentations will serve as a platform to discuss the work with local specialists, projecting the potentials of the design projects for future application within the city. The workshop will be complemented by a series of lectures, presentations and discussions by the visiting tutors, local architects and other invited guests.

Tutors

Kristof Crolla is a licensed architect who combines his work as Assistant Professor at the University of Hong Kong with his architectural practice 'Laboratory for Explorative Architecture & Design' (LEAD). After graduating Magna Cum Laude at Ghent University and practising in Belgium, he moved to London in 2005 and attended the AA's master program Design Research Laboratory, from where his student work with team 'Sugar Inc.' was exhibited at the 2006 Venice Architectural Biennale. Following this he worked for several years as Lead Architect for Zaha Hadid Architects while teaching in parallel at the Architectural Association School of Architecture, London (AA) and other institutions worldwide. He is the founder of the International Workshop Series (IWS) which organises workshops exploring digital design and fabrication in architecture and has been invited as a jury critic, lecturer and tutor in numerous institutions in Europe, China, Chile and South Africa.

Jeroen van Ameijde is a registered architect and currently working as Head of Digital Prototyping and Unit Master of Intermediate Unit 6 at the Architectural Association in London. After receiving a Masters Degree in architecture and building technology at the Delft University of Technology he has worked in offices in Holland, New York and Hong Kong and taught in a graduate design studio at the University of Pennsylvania. He has been teaching at the AA since 2007, working with various units and programs including one of the design studios in the Design Research Lab graduate programme. He has lectured and taught workshops in several cities including Gent, Innsbruck, Barcelona, Sevilla, Tel Aviv, Singapore, Sao Paulo and Johannesburg, and has recently founded the experimental architecture practice 'Material_Codes'.



Requirements

It's recommended that participants have at least one laptop computer per team of 3 students for the duration of the workshop, with Rhino 4.0 and the latest version of Grasshopper readily installed. If needed, additional specialist software programs will be brought by the workshop tutors.

Previous experience with 3D modelling or scripting is recommended but not essential.

More Information and Application

The workshop is open to current architecture students, practising architects and designers. Participation fees are set to ZAR1000.00 [€100] for students and ZAR4000.00 [€400] for professionals. As the number of places is limited, early application is recommended.

Visit www.gsa.co.za for more information and registration.

Contact information

Should you have any queries regarding the Digital Constructions workshop, please email hfraser@pg.co.za or alternatively contact 083 309 4275.

www.1sixoneeight.co.za

