Open Architectural Design Studio Arch 4101 & 5101 – I/2006
Group: Dr. Marc Aurel Schnabel

R-Act --- Shimokitazawa

Re-Representation - Responsive Design Parameters - Rule Based Design Communication

Virtual Site: http://www.arch.usyd.edu.au/~marcaurel/arch4101/

The studio addresses (computational) concepts of architectural design creation influencing the recent development of architectural production. The nature of the Studio is partly experimental, partly realistic and develops unconventional solutions. It examines the process of designing that informs about design understanding and communication.

For example spaces between buildings result passively from describing the buildings around them. We can use a variety of generators to create external spaces and find the building forms that result.

The studio explores the overall process of creative design, where participants show an innovative use of employed tools and the processes from the starting point to the outcome. Special attention is stressed on the visual and spatial quality of the design. Exploration of new re-presentation of (digital) architectures, academic research and their unorthodox employment is central to this studio.

Physical Site: Shimokitazawa

The neighbourhood of Shimokitazawa represents Japanese counter-culture more than any other place in Tokyo. Indeed, this is probably one of the first places that young architects, designers, artists, djs, or activists visiting Tokyo are taken to by their Japanese counterparts.

Recently, a plan dating from 1946 for a 26-meter wide road throughout the neighbourhood was resurrected by Odakyu, a large railway owner and real-estate developer. The government champions the new road plan. Planning in Tokyo is characterized by top-down intervention mainly in the form of infrastructure investment. Tokyo is often described as a city of small neighbourhoods, known as “chou”. The chou serves typically at diffusing information and decisions coming from above to the local level rather than bottom-up communication.

This cultural, economical and social environment is the base for our Design Exploration that formulates architectural design issues by investigating architectural design-communication.
The studio uses information from and supports:

1) Urban Typhoon Workshop in Shimokitazawa - Tokyo: June 26-29
   http://www.urbantyphoon.com

2) Ubiquitous Urban Design Symposium, June 28, 2006:
   University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies
   http://www.iii.u-tokyo.ac.jp/english/

3) Cultural Typhoon Symposium, June 30 – July 2, 2006:
   http://www.cultural-typhoon.org