W 104

Open Building Implementation

tecnalia
Corporación Tecnológica

CIB W104 International Conference: OPEN AND SUSTAINABLE BUILDING

16th **International Conference** of the CIB W104 Open Building Implementation on **"Open and Sustainable Building",** organized jointly with Tecnalia. **May 17-19, 2010 Bilbao (Spain)**.

Detaching from Architecture

The 2nd International Student Competition in

Open Architecture

Introduction

After the successful completion of the First International Student Competition in Open Building in 2008 (Ball State University, USA), the CIB W104 is organizing the 2nd student competition in association with Tecnalia in Bilbao, Spain in May 2010. The competition has two aims:

1) to invite critical observation of the traditions of architecture as a profession, and

2) to invite creative and focused thinking on the needed advancements in design methodology to meet the challenges of a dynamic new urban morphology

mutating with the changes of contemporary urban life.

Architectural design has been traditionally regarded as a decision making process used by architects for clients on the form, space, programs of use, and associated technical and social issues related to buildings. When the first sketch of a building appears, it is meant to be static, and permanent, even if it is not necessarily intended to be monumental. The programs of use are determined by the designers and clients, who often do not represent the actual users and people. In the extreme cases, buildings become the very individual self-expression of the designers, who are more interested to create signature buildings than anything else.

Architecture as a profession has never been in such a critical, problematic and isolated situation as it is now because of the ever increasing social diversities and rapid changes in the social, economic, and technical circumstances in the contemporary cities around the world.

Detaching from Architecture aims to contribute to reversing the traditional concept of architecture, in order to allow two important components of reality to play equally important roles in architectural design. The first component is time. To ensure that buildings can last as long as the physical structures allow, they have to be flexible and adaptable enough to accommodate changes of uses, circumstances, and as many unforeseeable matters as possible, arising from the building's service period. The second component is people -- the real people beyond any statistics, function or program of use made by programming. If pluralism is the word characterizing the conceptions and behaviours of the people of today, no building can ever be satisfactory

without interaction by everyday use. People collectively and individually look for opportunities to change and adapt their environment.

Taking these two components into account, the competition of **Detaching from Architecture** is not interested in comprehensive or complete designs, or a "design for everything." It calls for proposals with an understanding of the built environment as distinct but related levels of intervention. The architects may focus on some layers of the built environment while intentionally, strategically, and technically offering form and space to be undetermined, undersigned, open for mutation in time, and open for interpretation, again with physical interaction with people. To be more provocative, the competition calls for project designs which address:

- Time-space rather then form-space

- Strategic rather than tactical decisions

- Interactive rather than passive

- Operative and instrumental rather than objective and complete

- Conditional rather than situational

- Structural rather than compositional

This is an open competition with limited restrictions. Submissions can be part of academic work or can be independent works. Students can work individually or in groups. For the academic work, this competition also aims to assist instructors in developing a range of teaching approaches for use in their courses. Studio teachers

and students are encouraged to explore the many varied functional, social, political, aesthetic, and environmental issues in different scales and types of projects for their own places or cities. However, the projects should have sites and context.

Entries will be critiqued and judged by an international jury of experts with backgrounds in Urban Design, Landscape Architecture, and Architecture. First, second, and third cash prizes are offered. Winners will be given a stipend to help pay for the cost of attending the conference in Bilbao, Spain on May 17-19, 2009 to formally receive their awards, attend the conference and participate in the conference tours. If entries are the result of academic works, teachers will receive certificates of participation and/or winning the competition.

Important dates

Registration begins: 1 September 2009

Registration deadline: 28 November 2009

Submission deadline: 30 January 2010

Winners announced: 27 February 2010

International Congress: 17 – 19 May 2010

Competition Prizes:

One First Prize $1000

Two Second Prizes   each, $600

W 104

Open Building Implementation

Three Third Prizes   each, $400

We expect to invite student winners to the conference and to offer a $1000 stipend to help cover their costs.

Information about the conference and the competition can be found at

www.labein.es

The conference is part of the work of the CIB W104 Open Building Implementation network (www.open-building.org) and is being organized locally by Tecnalia, Spain.