



From the President's Desk

SIA:



Reflections on Architectural Education II

The preceding article in this series reflected on the prevailing state of Higher Education in Sudan. We are of the opinion that Architectural Education as part of that system has the lion share of the dilemma.

Up till 1991, there was only one school teaching Architecture [The Department of Architecture College of Engineering U of K.] Now, at this point in time there are four Governmental and eight private schools with extra four programmes in the pipe-line. This rush for studying Architecture may be justified; Sudan is a nation in the process of building itself, but there must be a close check exerted on the quality of the product of these institutes.

SIA, being the legitimate authority on the job is doing its utmost to meet its prescribed assignment of protecting the profession and the society

through ascertaining that the graduates are competent and up to the comprehensive requisites of the job.

Being concerned with this aspect, SIA is not stepping out of its way.

On page 2 of our previous issue some articles from the constitution of our mother institution the AUA were quoted. Of these, article 4.9 explains a lot: *"To promote the free movement of architects between member countries by accrediting of qualifications and the encouragement of systems of inter-recognition of qualifications within the framework of registration requirements in member countries and to encourage strict observance of the professional code of conduct in member institutes."* The significance of this passage is that it helps highlighting the basic role that institutes comparable to SIA are to play. Our non compromising conviction is that the curricula of all these schools are to satisfy the accreditation norms. Moreover, the quality of the teaching personnel, the well-equipped space is to be availed together with all extra facilities that accreditation committees may set in order to meet their standards. Then, the graduates from these schools will have the chance to compete for jobs both at

home and in the neighbouring countries, and in the world at large.

Another aspect to consider carefully is that even the courses that satisfy the accreditation will soon become history, as the knowledge is expanding at an unprecedented rate. Due to the present day explosion of knowledge coupled with the globalization impacts, the qualification paper that is obtained on graduation has a very limited life time as a license to seek a job. To cater for that, now order of the day is the renewal and updating of such licenses at specified intervals.

The [CPD] which was introduced in the first issue of this publication is the most viable savior. This new tool stands as the most recognized means of keeping the architect abreast with the proliferating knowledge. It is for such reasons that [SIA] is much concerned with enabling its members through this tool to get their fare share in the job on the global job market. With this statement we mean to ring the bells vigorously to raise the level of awareness, hoping that that will safeguard against these bells start tolling soon.

Omer Siddig Osman,
SIA, President

'Due to the present day explosion of knowledge, coupled with the globalization impacts, the qualification paper that is obtained on graduation has a very limited life time as a license to seek a job'

Architecture of the Month



Yas Hotel

Construction continues on the Yas Hotel in Abu Dhabi, UAE. A sweeping curvilinear gridshell of steel and glass wraps the complex, designed by Asymptote Architecture of New York City. The 500-room, 85,000-m² hotel is part of the \$36 billion Yas Marina development, which includes a Formula 1 race track that weaves around and between the two hotel towers

World Environment Day 2009

A kind invitation was sent to SIA by the Minister of Environment and Urban Development to attend the ministry's celebration of the World Environment Day WED, which was held on June 10th at the ministry. The day is celebrated all around the globe since 1972. The theme for WED 2009 is 'Your Planet Needs You - UNite to Combat Climate Change'. It reflects the urgency for nations to agree on a new deal at the crucial climate convention meeting to be held in Copenhagen this year, and the links with overcoming poverty and improved management of forests. The day represents a perfect opportunity for the Sudanese architects to pause and reflect upon the effect and the impacts of their day-to-day work on the environment.



SIA Council Meeting June/2009

The members of the Sudanese Institute of Architects council are set to have their second meeting on June 27th, to discuss the periodical reports and review the proposed work plans of the different committees of the executive office. The council has been established, and elected by the last general meeting of October 2008.



AIA HOUSING AWARDS 2009

17 projects were honored in the 2009 AIA Housing Awards. Through the awards program, now in its ninth year, the American Institute of Architects recognizes excellent residential design and seeks to promote the importance of good housing as a necessity of life, a sanctuary for the human spirit, and a valuable national resource.



The winning projects and firms have shown minimally incised forms. From inside, most of them, open up to expansive views of the landscape and/or urban environment.

The Outpost of Bellevue (shown above) has shared the distinguished awards with a couple of remarkable innovative projects such as, Laidley Street Residence of San Francisco- (shown in the right), Low Country Residence of Mount Pleasant in Southern California, 700 Palms Residence in Venice, etc.



OIA's Architecture students wins the Engineer's Week Prize ...

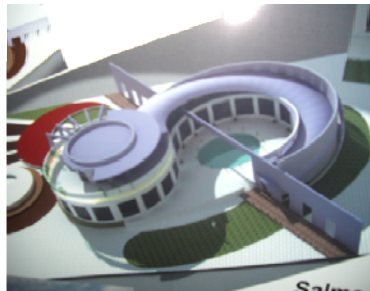


The students Association of the department of Architecture of Omdurman Islamic University has organized a week-long academic and cultural activities as part of the Engineer's Week organized by the students of the Faculty of Architecture and Engineering last May.

Wonderfully prepared and thought-of exhibits have shown the students works and projects from the first to the fourth year. The works have been displayed drawing panels, physical models, as well as virtual simulations.

As part of the department's community participation, a projection was set to display the staff and students works that have been conducted on a collaborative bodies outside of the department. The projects demonstrated include the Engineering Faculty Extension Building in El-Fitaihab, and Khartoum's New International Airport.

The architecture students organized the first cultural night of the week, and won the Week's first prize at the end. **Congratulations!**



COMPETITIONS

Forests National Corporation Competition

In collaboration with the Sudanese Institute of Architects, the Forests National Corporation, of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, is organizing a closed competition for the design of an investment building project. The preparations and works are under way for announced deadline, July 12th.

The entries will give proposals and design visions for a mixed-use building that is to cater for office, hotel and



entertainment services.

The jury of the competition, which is headed by Hussein Kinani Bedawi (Architect), includes: Dr. Abubakr Hussein Mirghani (Architect), Dr. Khaleel Abdalgadir Ali (Structural Engineer), Seif-el-Deen Osman Elfadhlabi (Architect), and a representative of the FNC.



The first three winning design proposals are going to receive the sums of 30,000 SDG, 20,000 SDG and 10,000 SDG, while the winner will be requested to develop and detail the proposal.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS

Green Roofs?!! ...

Green roofs, whether intensive or extensive, can provide a wealth of benefits on site and beyond. Delivering these benefits successfully requires professional attention to a variety of critical details. The first common dilemma in the construction of living green roofs, and other landscapes over structure, is that, in conventional building, the execution and completion of site work are often subordinated to the completion of the building. From the very beginning of construction of early packages through the completion of a project, the coordination of trades, protection of materials, sequence of construction, effects of seasonal climate, project costs, and time issues involved in the green roof system must be brought to the attention of the construction management entity.



ARCH NEWS .. ARCH NEWS ..

RIBA International Buildings Awards

The 2009 International Award winners, of The Royal Institute of British Architects—RIBA, have been announced.

The RIBA International Awards reward the excellent work being done by RIBA members around the world.

Only 15 projects from all around the globe have earned the awards; out of which six projects have been shortlisted to compete for the prestigious Lubetkin Prize, which is anticipated by mid-July.

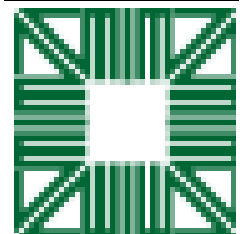
The projects included: Alto Vetro Tower, Beijing Airport Terminal 3, National Stadium Beijing, Beijing Station, Ching Fu Shipbuilding, the European Investment Bank, and The Water Cube.



WEB REVIEW

ArchNet is an international online community for architects, planners, urban designers, landscape architects, conservationists, and scholars, with a focus on Muslim cultures and civilizations. It is an exciting project being developed at the MIT School of Architecture and Planning in cooperation with, and support of The Aga Khan Trust for Culture, an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network. The website (<http://www.archnet.org/>), features a comprehensive digital library, an updated digital calendar and a course syllabi section. Interested individuals can subscribe to ArchNet in Member Profile's section, and can contribute by adding their individual image collections and files in their personal workspace; add events to the Digital Calendar; post a topic or a response in the Discussion Forum.

ArchNet





Glenn Murcutt

The world of Architecture has yet again celebrated the life-long contribution of the renowned Australian architect Glenn Murcutt, when he was awarded another prestigious award: the American Institute of Architects' Gold Medal for the year of 2009.

Although, Murcutt is not well known within the Sudanese architectural and academic circles, compared to other Pritzker prize winners; such as Zaha Hadid and Frank O Gheri, his works have influenced many architects around the globe in the last 20 years.

Murcutt's motto, 'touch the earth lightly', convinces him to design his works to fit into the Australian landscape features. His works are highly economical and multi-functional. Murcutt also pays attention to the environ-

ment such as wind direction, water movement, temperature and light surrounding his sites before he designs the building itself. Materials such as glass, stone, timber and steel are often included in his works.

Murcutt works as a sole practitioner, producing residential and institutional work all over Australia. Although he does not work outside the country, or run a large firm, his work has a worldwide influence, especially since Murcutt teaches master classes for beginning and established architects. His architecture expects buildings to respond to their climate and landscape. Murcutt works alone, concentrating on small projects where he has greater control of the outcome.

Murcutt's works have been recognized all around the world. He has been awarded the most prestigious awards, which include:

- the Gold Medal of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects in 1992
- the 'Green Pin' Award from the Royal Danish Academy of Architects in 1999
- the Pritzker Prize for Architecture in 2002

"I seek ways of giving buildings horizontality of form...I follow the contours because the contours are -by definition - horizontal lines...I first of all have to make my building work with the contours. Next, it has to relate to the sunlight, and if I can do this with the contours and with the sunlight in unison, then I have made a good start."

Murcutt

· the AIA Gold Medal Award in 2009

An exhibition organized by the Museum of Sydney is underway since the 13th of June called Glenn Murcutt: Architecture for Place. A lot of Murcutt's well-known works; such as the ones shown below will be presented to discover why Glenn Murcutt is Australia's best-known and most influential international architect.

** all photos are from the Pritzker Architecture Prize's website: www.pritzkerprize.com, retrieved on June 11th, 2009.*



Simpson-Lee House, Australia (1994)



Magney House, Australia (1984)



Marike-Alderton, Australia (1994)



Arthur & Yvonne Boyd Center, Australia (1994)

As an experimental effort for SIA's Magazine, SIA Newsletter is set to publish the ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH PAPER SERIES starting on the coming issue. Your thoughts and contributions are very welcome.

Dr. Tallal Abdalbasit Saeed, Editor

We are also on the web!

www.sia-sud.org



The Engineers' Club
Al-Amarat st. no.7

Phone: (+249) 183 489377
Fax: (+249) 183 488756