

Digital Craft and Collaboration in Today's Architectural Practice Symposium

Blue Ridge – AIA, Virginia Society AIA and Virginia Tech Symposium
September 7-8, 2007 - Skelton Conference Center / Hancock Auditorium at Virginia Tech
Symposium Co-chairs: Joe Wheeler, Terry Surjan and Kihong Ku

The symposium will focus on the linkage between digital design, construction, and the physical manufacturing process. The event seeks to examine the current state of BIM and the implications for the practice of architecture, engineering, and construction. By bringing together leading practitioners and scholars, the symposium shall establish a forum of A/E/C professionals to address the changing role of design and construction professionals. With an increasing attention towards BIM, the symposium will cover a wide range of topics on technologies, techniques and practices that have promoted innovation, specifically investigating the relationship between the digital technologies and craftsmanship. Case studies on architectural applications will be investigated and critically questioned to understand the integration opportunities in the construction industry. The issues and opportunities for collaboration between owners, designers, engineers, and contractors will be at the center of the presentations and panel discussions.

The event will begin with a keynote lecture by **Stephen Kieran FAIA** of Kieran Timberlake Associates. Mr. Kieran is a leader in the architecture field on rethinking the assembly process based on new design and manufacturing technologies. We will then hear an opening lecture by **Dennis Shelden**. Mr. Shelden has a Ph. D. in Computation and Architectural Design from MIT and is Chief Technology Officer for Gehry Technologies where he is responsible for the management and strategic direction of the firm's technology efforts.

Steve Sanderson of SHoP Architects will begin the Saturday morning sessions and speak on the topic of Generative Components through the work of his office. Following is **Mark Goulthorpe of dECOi**, who will be speaking on collaborative practice as an essential part to a digitally-networked creative enterprise. Completing the morning sessions is Los Angeles architect **Randall Stout FAIA**, whose firm designed the new Art Museum of Western Virginia under construction in Roanoke. Mr. Stout will provide us with an overview on this project and prepare the way for the panel discussion that will follow after lunch.

After lunch, we will continue with panel discussion on the collaborative experiences of the Art Museum of Western Virginia with the designer, contractor and subcontractors involved in the project. Following the panel discussion, are three concurrent one hour software workshops held by representatives from the software industry to introduce participants to the new relevant software available for architectural practices. Attendees will be able to select which workshop they will attend.

The last symposium presentation will be made by **Robert A. Zahner**, Senior Vice President of A. Zahner Co., who is responsible for the metal cladding and manufacture of many complex surfaces of the works of Gehry, Holl, Herzog and de Meuron and Zaha Hadid. Mr. Zahner will speak about the manufacturing side of digital craft. The event will conclude with a panel discussion on the topic of digital craft involving the symposium's main speakers.

We invite you to Virginia Tech to participate in the discussion of topics that include 3D model-based collaboration, academic and research environments towards integration, CAD/CAM, and the impacts of BIM on practice and the overall topic of digital craft.

Symposium Schedule

Friday, September 7, 2007 – Burchard Hall (All Students invited to participate)

- 1:30 - 2:45 pm** **Gold Sponsor Displays for Student Visitation** - Burchard Hall
- 2:45 – 3:45 pm** **Gold Sponsor Product Presentations to Students** (Concurrent):
- 3:45 – 4:00 pm** **Break**
- 4:00 – 5:00 pm** **Repeat of Gold Sponsor Presentations to Students** (Concurrent):

Friday, September 7, 2007 – Hancock Hall Lobby and Auditorium (All Students & Symposium Registrants Invited)

- 6:15 – 7:00 pm** **Open Reception** – Hancock Lobby
- 7:00 – 8:30 pm** **Keynote Address** – Hancock Auditorium
- Stephen Kieran FAIA** – Kieran Timberlake Associates
 Introduction by **Scott Poole AIA**, Virginia Tech A + D
- 8:30 – 9:30 pm** **Opening Lecture:** – Hancock Auditorium
- Dennis Sheldon**, Gehry Technologies, Inc.
 Introduction by **Kihong Ku**, VT, Myers-Lawson School of Construction

Saturday, September 8, 2007 – Skelton Center: Ballroom, & Breakout Rooms

- 8:00 – 8:30 am** **Registration and Coffee**
- 8:30 – 8:45 am** **Welcome & Acknowledgements**
Al Storm AIA, President, Virginia Society AIA
Joe Wheeler AIA, Blue Ridge AIA, Virginia Tech A + D
- 8:45- 9:45 am** **Steve Sanderson, SHoP Architects**
- 9:45 – 10:00 am** **Break**
- 10:00 – 11:00 am** **Mark Goulthorpe, dECOi Architects**
- 11:00 – 11:30 am** **Randall Stout FAIA, Randall Stout Architects, Inc.**
Introduction by **Kihong Ku**
- 11:30 – 12:30 pm** **Lunch**
- 12:30 – 2:30 pm** **Case Study/Panel Discussion: Art Museum of Western Virginia**
Randall Stout FAIA, Randall Stout Architects, Inc.
John Murphey AIA, Randall Stout Architects, Inc.
Dave Salzer, Balfour Beatty Construction
Jeet Kharde, Balfour Beatty Construction
Robert A. Zahner, A. Zahner Company
Mark Munday, Superior Steel
Moderator: **Kihong Ku**, VT, Myers-Lawson School of Construction
- 2:30 – 2:45 pm** **Break & Desserts**
- 2:45 – 3:45 pm** **Sponsor Presentations - Breakout Rooms (Concurrent)**
- 3:45 – 4:00 pm** **Break**
- 4:00 – 5:00 pm** **Robert A. Zahner, A. Zahner Company - Hancock Auditorium**
Introduction by **Terry Surjan**, Virginia Tech A + D
- 5:00 – 6:00 pm** **Panel Discussion: Digital Design and Construction - Hancock Auditorium**
Randall Stout FAIA, Randall Stout Architects, Inc.
Robert Zahner, A. Zahner Company
Mark Goulthorpe, dECOi Architects
Steve Sanderson, SHoP Architects
Dennis Sheldon, Gehry Technologies, Inc.
Moderator: **Terry Surjan**, VT, School of Architecture + Design

