

**December Studio project:
Cambridge Museum of Technology**



For the December studio project the IDBE was delighted to have the opportunity to develop concepts and designs for the [Cambridge Museum of Technology](#). The museum has been housed in the old sewage pumping station on the Newmarket Road in Cambridge for 40 years. While recent fundraising and an active group of volunteers has made the buildings watertight, the trustees and the Board of Management are interested in enhancing the existing exhibitions and extending the facilities to allow some more modern acquisitions to be displayed. Dr Peter Long, trustee of the museum and lecturer at the Engineering Department, set the studio project, asking the IDBE teams of mixed members of cohorts 16 and 17 to address ten specific 'tasks', to help guide the next stage of development.

The IDBE course visited the museum on Monday 6th December, possibly the coldest day of the year; this certainly encouraged some teams to focus their designs around thermal insulation and heating issues for the buildings! The teams presented their solutions to the trustees and volunteers on the Saturday morning, and received very positive feedback and thanks for their efforts. The museum is now in the process of fundraising, and hopes to be able to take some of the ideas forward. Meanwhile the IDBE course have been invited back to visit the museum and keep track of progress.

First meeting of the new IDBE Advisory Panel

The new Advisory Panel met for the first time at the start of December. Fiona Cousins of the Arup Foundation chairs the new panel, and she kindly fitted the meeting in as the first stop of her trip to the UK from the US (she

assured us that she had managed to get some sleep on the plane). Fiona and several other members of the panel are graduates of the IDBE, and all are enthusiastic about helping the course to continue to flourish and grow.

Key discussions focused on course content, marketing, and on new professional structures and ways of working. Other members of the panel are: Adrian Dobson (RIBA), John Hicks (WSP), Saul Humphreys (RG Carter), Saud Muhsinovic (Fulcrum Engineers), Dan Phillips (Buro Happold), David Potter (RICS), Deb Thomas (Arup), and Elanor Warwick (CABE).

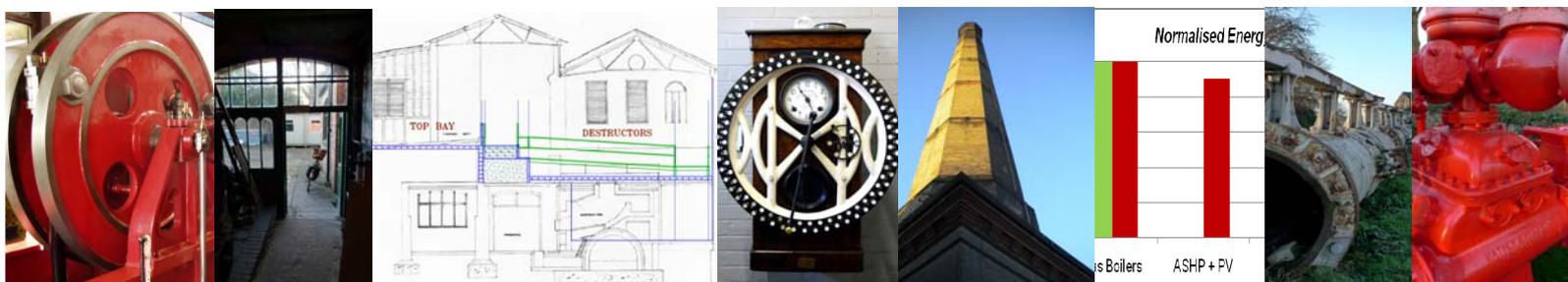
Two new multi-million pound research centres strengthen construction research at Cambridge



Cambridge Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Alison Richard, and Laing O'Rourke Chairman and Chief Executive Ray O'Rourke, at Jesus College in July 2010, formally launching the new Centre.

The Engineering Department has recently set up two new research centres in construction. The 'Innovation and Knowledge Centre in Smart Infrastructure and Construction' has £17m funding from the research councils and industry. Principle Investigator Professor Mair says the focus will be on 'smarter construction and production processes, employing the latest research developments in intelligent sensing and information processing'.

The new Laing O'Rourke Centre for Construction Engineering & Technology has received £10m start up funding from the construction company. The Centre will start teaching a part-time masters course in 2011, which has been developed in close collaboration with the IDBE course. The two new centres will employ new academic teaching and research staff, who will strengthen Cambridge expertise in areas related to design and construction of the built environment.



Tony Ip, IDBE15, wins Hong Kong Young Architect Award 2010



Our congratulations to Tony Ip for winning this prestigious award. Tony epitomises our interdisciplinary ethos, having gained his first degree in civil and structural engineering, worked for three years as an engineer, then taken Bachelors and Masters degrees in Architecture, passing both with distinction. Tony's IDBE thesis is on 'Sky Garden Design in High-density High-rise Residential Development'.

Where are they now?

Robert Doe (IDBE3) writes:

'We arrived in Brisbane, Australia in November 2005 and since then the key feature of my architectural life has been 'variety'.

During 2009 the Government's Building the Education Revolution (BER) stimulus package kicked-in including provision of Multipurpose Halls for all schools in Australia, sometimes whether needed or not! GHD's client - Redlands College, Wellington Point, QLD - wanted their Hall to be an elegant signifier of arrival to the school complex. As lead architect I managed a team including structural engineers working on a shared Revit model, whilst the service engineers held out for 2-D. With all disciplines on one office level, work progressed well and the College was happy with the result.

In 2010, at RKA, all thrusting off-form concrete architecture, my role was to ensure their ABC Brisbane Accommodation Project achieved a 5-Star Green Star rating, representing 'Australian Excellence.' The process was a complete team effort: designers, contractor and specialists met weekly for 2 months; a specialist consultant provided sophisticated energy modelling to establish emissions data; the ABC were continually involved and an ESD consultant guided us through the subtleties of the weightings system and the compliance process.

Always varied, sometimes challenging and even confronting, my time in architecture in Australia has broadened my understanding of the discipline and my role in it.'



ABC Brisbane Accommodation

Obituary - Rodney Meere (IDBE12)



Rodney (right) with Mark Key at the Friday dinner, July 2006

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Rodney Meere, graduate of the course from cohort 12.

Mark Key writes: 'Rodney Meere was so many things. A successful and respected entrepreneur, a man of substance, an intellectual, a loving family man, a fantastic friend and ultimately, a source of inspiration, endless fun and laughter to all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Rodney was born in May 1941 and named after the battleship HMS Rodney, which played a major role in the sinking of the German battleship Bismarck. After prep school, he won a scholarship to Solihull School, and from there moved to Gosta Green Technical College (now Aston University) courtesy of Bryant and became a civil engineer. It was with Bryant that his love of building started, working on projects such as New Street Station in Birmingham, where he held a very senior position. He was always proud of the fact that in all the years of redeveloping New Street Station, not one train had to be re-scheduled.

After working for Bryant, he joined P & A Management Consultants where he learnt his managerial skills, which he was to put to such great effect in his later business life. Going on to purchase a small health and safety consultancy called Hinton and Higgs, Rodney's ability, fantastic drive and infectious personality began to pay off, and he built the company into the largest and most successful independent Health and Safety consultancy in Europe.

Having sold the company to secure the future of his family, at the age of 65 he embarked on what he would describe as one of his most enjoyable and rewarding journeys, the IDBE course. His time at Cambridge gave him the opportunity to study one of his great heroes, Brunel, and the building of the Mickleton railway tunnel. He graduated in March 2008.

At the age of 69, Rodney died peacefully surrounded by his family in Perugia, Italy on Saturday 20th November 2010. He is survived by his wife, four children and five grandchildren.'

A longer version of this obituary is available on request from the IDBE office.



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The programme is jointly administered by Departments of Architecture and Engineering at the University of Cambridge. Initiated and funded by the Ove Arup Foundation and supported by the Newton Trust, the Happold Trust, the Panasonic Trust and the Institution of Structural Engineers Educational Trust.