

4th Concrete Design Competition

MONO LITHIC

20092010
EXPLORING
VERSATILITY

curated by
Valerio Olgiati

www.concretedesigncompetition.com

IRISH JURY REPORT

Jury meeting date: 24th May 2010

Location: RIAI, 8 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, Ireland

Jurors:

Jane Burnside (Chair) – Jane D Burnside Architects

Philippe O’Sullivan – Grafton Architects

Triona Stack – O’Donnell + Tuomey

Raphael Zuber – Raphael Zuber architect

Introduction

The competition brief was simply ‘Monolithic – Exploring Versatility’ and whilst seemingly broad was at once definitive by nature. It required the students to explore and exploit the versatility of concrete in generating monolithic architectural objects, structures and systems that would lead to the unveiling of the potential properties of concrete, its various functions and its appearances. Proposals could range from objects, furniture and architectural details to housing, landscape interventions, complex buildings and structural systems.

25 entries were received and with this brief in mind and following rigorous scrutiny and debate by the judging panel the prize winners were selected as follows:

PO 123 Extrusion

Landscape Interpretive Centre

First place

“A refreshing project exploring the construction of a tower with hay bale shuttering using the simple vehicle of a lighthouse in the landscape. The tower is developed as a vertical labyrinth planned around a cruciform of negative space that slashes the horizon's panoramic. The natural formwork, sculpted and shaped to create crevices, would be removed on the exterior leaving only the memory of the land imprinted upon its surface and which nature could then reclaim. The interior was more exploratory allowing some concrete surfaces to be exposed, others to retain their hay bales as permanent shuttering and insulation. This project presented a thought provoking marriage between the organic and the manmade which resulted in an honest expression of both.”

VV 085. Think thick concrete.

Joint second place

“This sculptural form explored the spatial potential of concrete in its many forms: floating mass, tapered plane, monolithic block. Seemingly in a continuous state of movement between assembly and disassembly, the jury felt that the design could be developed to have many practical uses: beach cafe, transport shelter, information kiosk or gallery.”

CS 444

Intra Mural housing

Joint second place

“Two interlocking blocks of housing, like the squares of Todi, are fused to become one interdependent whole. The form is elegantly carved to make window and door openings into intricately planned interiors. The concept of a single monolithic form is carried through from concept to detail culminating in a beautiful interior study of the in-situ cast chimney stack. A very thorough and mature piece of work that illustrated a depth of understanding of materiality and the creation of form.”

The jury also selected two entries as honourable mentions:

LG 024 Learning from Nature

NB 035 Erosion by the Elements

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General Comments

The jury were impressed with the standard of entries and noted that ideas were fresh, innovative and thought provoking yet were presented with a clarity and maturity that was much appreciated. Following the selection process the jury were pleased to be informed that the 25 entries represented 46 students from 3 universities with a spread of students from 2nd to 5th year and in this regard the jury felt the standard was exceptionally high.

Jane Burnside

Philippe O'Sullivan

Triona Stack

Raphael Zuber

May 2010