



exploring the hybrid condition

Dutch Jury Report

[Dutch jury]

Maurice Nio – architect (chairman), NIO architecten

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Jan Versteegen – structural engineer, Pieters Bouwtechniek

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[Criteria set by the Dutch jury]

Having read the intentions of the theme 'Implicit Performance', the Dutch jury has translated the outlines to more or less measurable criteria. In the assessment of each projects/design the criteria have been discussed in a plenary session.

The criteria in short:

- Level of innovation;
- Does the idea produce a surprising picture? Does this picture change in time and during the lifecycle of the project?;
- Impact of the presentation;
- Implementation and or practical research is appreciated.

In reviewing all entries, the jury was impressed by the standard of innovation by a majority of projects. Quite a few projects explored the boundaries of structural strength, translucency, surface design and composite solutions with unexpected materials.

By examining the students' work, the jury has identified two tendencies that are currently also topic of research in the professional field of architecture. The students are experimenting with designing for the senses (experience of light, colour, touch and sound). The other end of the spectrum shows experiments on 'seasonal' architecture, which involve the use of technology to create rotating facade elements and combine structural and mechanical engineering in designing buildings that will change with the climatic conditions or just to (temporarily) change the appearance of the building.

[Findings of the Dutch jury]

The Dutch jury has selected two winners and three honourable mentions. The jury would like to express that winning a prize in this competition is the recognition of a new approach to designing with concrete and an encouragement to further research. The honourable mentions should be seen as the recognition of a nice idea that explores the possibilities of concrete but needs more research to connect with the practice of design.

[Winner] NL154 – Sense of Scale

Sense of Scale is the somewhat misleading title - according to the jury - of a project that has multiple qualities and fits most of the criteria. The project explores the aesthetic, thermal and structural qualities of ultra high strength concrete (hsc) and the architectural impact of working with elements with a relatively large scale spongy texture. It is the extensive research shown in the presentation, the search for an integrated or combined quality of building technology, physics and architecture, that appeals to the jury. Although the apparition of the chosen texture is not new (a.o. Koolhaas has worked with similar

elements), this project is more than 'just a pretty element' because of the research in the field of energy saving solutions and integrated design. The jury speaks of a "brave experiment with some rough edges", has small doubts about the sustainability of the plastic globules but is overall enthusiastic about the way the project is presented. Less but stronger material, more surface thus better accumulation of energy and a strong architectural presence combined in one element: a true winner!

[Winner] TU000 – Sakura Concrete

Sakura Concrete plays with the senses of the spectator. The jury appreciates the projects as "pure poetry". The combination of concrete with fragile living material (like the orchids that were used in the experiment) brings "soul" to the material and the elements. The contrast of fragility and structural strength is expected to enforce the character of the elements in time. According to the jury this projects meets all the criteria set in the theme 'Implicit Performance'. Sakura Concrete is emotion, is sustainable in its own way and an inspiration for other designers.

[Honourable mention] Rotating Concrete

Rotating Concrete generates different appearances of the façade with floor high vertical rotating wings. The system also anticipates on changing climatic requirements of the façade. Using concrete creates a "dramatic" complexity in the structural system, although ultra high strength concrete at the rotation points will ensure a long lasting performance. By stiffening a select number of joints the construction as a whole will be stable and even applicable for multistory buildings. The jury appreciates the design but stretches that it is also the weakness of the project: the characteristic appearance will withhold other architects to use the structural/mechanical principal. To justify the amount of research into the structural and mechanical conditions of the system, the jury emphasizes the need to research the system on its architectural merits.

[Honourable mention] SC794 – Singing Concrete

Singing Concrete uses the material to play the senses. The jury welcomes sound as an extra tool to create architecture. The concept of singing stones is not new, but the scale of this expressive icon in concrete is. The design as shown in the presentation is not strong, the quality too univocal. The danger of showing attractive existing Klanksteiner in the presentation, only emphasizes the shortcoming of the plan. Sound as an extra dimension in urban and architectural design is worth additional research.

[Honourable mention] GR275 – Moiré

Moiré is not the only project in this competition that shows the architectural impact of perforated or translucent planes or walls made of ultra high strength concrete. Moiré stands out because of the shown contrast between the fragile looking concrete and its structural strength. This antagonism has enormous potential in architectonic respect. In spite of the charming fragile construction elements in daring combination with the heavily dimensioned roof plate, the layout of the pavilion does not appeal at all. For this reason Moiré is not a winner. The concept certainly deserves further research.

